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A Teen Lifeguard Murdered
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'I Never Knew Love Like This'
People
SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE
100 REASONS to LOVE AMERICA!
Dwayne Tops the List!
Exclusive
Dwayne Johnson
Fame, Fatherhood & Finding Peace
The superstar opens up about life as a proud #girldad, coping with loss & why he just might run for President
June 28, 2021

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chatter

'It opened my eyes and my ears to something greater and bigger than I'

–DWYANE WADE, on raising a trans daughter, on the *Today* show

'We jumped in headfirst and got some of the sticky bits out of the way early'

–SHAILENE WOODLEY, on meeting fiancé Aaron Rodgers during quarantine, to *Shape*

'I won't betray people for money'

–JAMIE LEE CURTIS, on why she won't write a tell-all, on the *People in the '90s* podcast

'I didn't want to give up my independence'

–DIANE KEATON, on why she has never married, to *Interview* magazine

'They needed us five queers'

–KARAMO BROWN, on filming the new season of *Queer Eye* in Texas, on the *People Every Day* podcast

'She'll have to be in the bathroom when I shave this puppy off, because she won't recognize me otherwise'

–JASON SUDEIKIS, on his 4-year-old daughter Daisy not recognizing him without his mustache, to *Entertainment Weekly*

Scan this QR code with your phone's camera to listen to our new podcast about the golden age of pop culture, *People in the '90s*.

(WADE) KARWAI TANG/GETTY IMAGES; (WOODLEY) RINDOFF PETROFF/GETTY IMAGES; (KEATON) SHUTTERSTOCK; (CURTIS) ANDREW H. WALKER/SHUTTERSTOCK; (SUDEIKIS) WILLY SANJUAN/INVISION/AP/SHUTTERSTOCK; (BROWN) RICH POLK/NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY IMAGES

5 Things We're Talking About *this week!*

The Oscar nominee earns six FitPoints for the act

1
Kate Hudson shares her racy workout

WW (formerly Weight Watchers) added sex as a way to earn FitPoints. Brand ambassador Hudson was excited to share the news: "If anyone needs me, I'm going to be in my bedroom."

2
Six Flags adds one hell of a new ride

New Jersey's Six Flags Great Adventure opened the Jersey Devil Coaster, the world's tallest, fastest and longest single-rail roller coaster. It stands 13 stories high and reaches up to 58 mph.

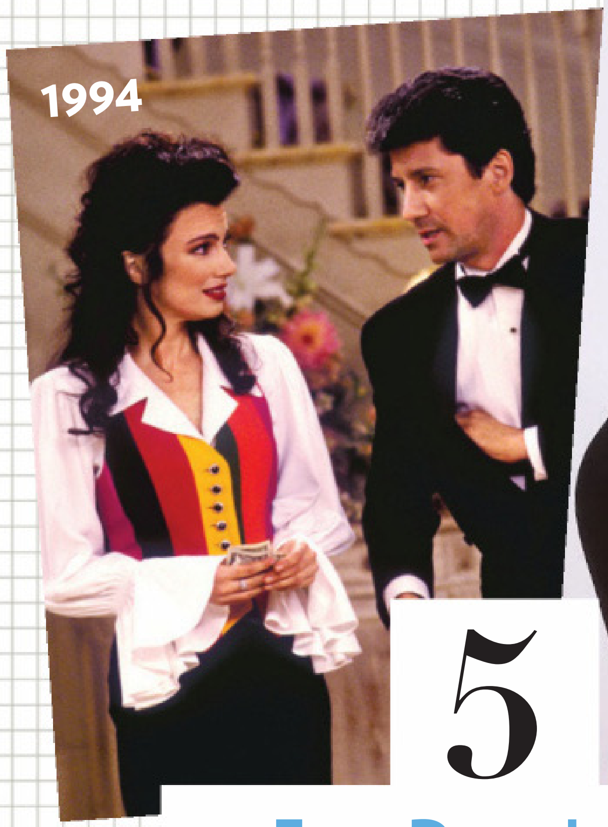
Stiletto Crocs also come in more formal black and gray

3
Crocs struts into high fashion

Balenciaga teamed with the footwear brand known for comfy clogs to create a stiletto Croc—ideal for wedding guests who've grown attached to the slippers they've lived in for 15 months.

4
Madea steps out of retirement

Although Tyler Perry planned to rest Madea after 2019's *Tyler Perry's a Madea Family Funeral,* he announced the beloved character would return for 2022's *A Madea Homecoming* on Netflix. "We need to laugh," Perry explained.



5
Fran Drescher rocks a classic *Nanny* look

She had style; she had flair! Drescher donned her TV character's striped vest to promote a virtual charity event and *The Nanny's* HBO Max run.

(HUDSON) AXELLE/BAUER-GRIFFIN/FILMMAGIC; (ROLLERCOASTER) SIX FLAGS GREAT ADVENTURE; (SHOE) BALENCIAGA; (THE NANNY) CBS/GETTY IMAGES; (MADEA) CHIP BERGMAN/LIONSGATE

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People

June 28, 2021

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Dwayne Johnson, star of *Jungle Cruise,* kicks off our celebration of summer—and the nation's grand reopening.

ON THE COVER Photograph by Peter Yang. Inset: Courtesy Dwayne Johnson; Groomer: Joanna Pensinger Ford/The Wall Group; Prop Stylist: Marina Tolentino/Roam Rentals; Stylist: Ilaria Urbinati/The Wall Group; T-Shirt: J brand; Pants: AG; Chain: David Yurman; Island Production: FX Group Hawaii; Mainland Production: Smith and Union. Insets, from left: Trae Patton/NBC/Getty Images; Emma McIntyre/E! Entertainment/NBC/Getty Images; Chandler Powell/Instagram

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: PETER YANG; BINDI IRWIN/INSTAGRAM; LARSEN & TALBERT; SAROYAN HUMPHREY/GUARDIAN/EYEVINE/REDUX; JENNIFER CAUSEY

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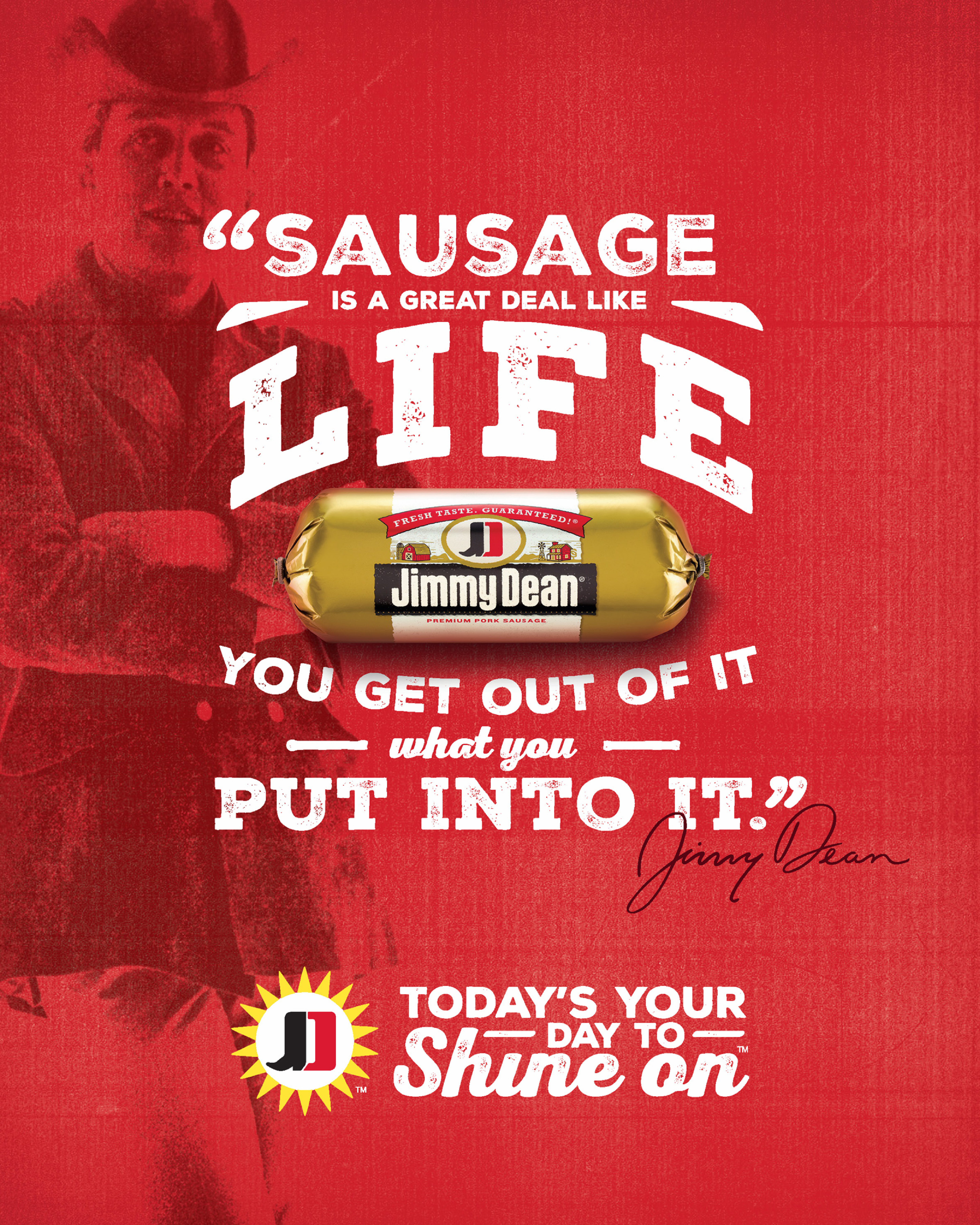

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America, a Love Story

I arrived in the United States 19 years ago as an immigrant holding a (very large) suitcase. I hadn't been satisfied with my life back home; things had stagnated, and I felt there was more out there. As soon as I stepped off the plane at Newark airport I had the sense that anything could happen. This really was the land of opportunity, where you could have an idea, work hard and make it a reality.

Now, as the world reopens after 15 months of hibernating from a global pandemic, I can't help but feel that same hope and excitement again in this country. There's a chance to reshape our lives and our futures as the world begins powering on all cylinders. I'm excited to go to parties, meet new people, renovate my basement, collaborate on new creative work, finally travel to New Orleans.

Our cover star, Dwayne Johnson, echoed my sentiment while talking about his latest project, *Jungle Cruise.* The film, he told *People,* captures, "not only a sense of great adventure and an appreciation and a gratitude and a zest for life, but the undercurrent of this idea that there's more out there. Sometimes we can be in a bubble, where we're on this treadmill that oftentimes feels like there's no stop button. But sometimes when you look a little bit further, there's so much more life out there."

This positivity and optimism is why Dwayne is the perfect host of the big, fun party that is our 100 Reasons to Love America issue to kick off summer. It's our sixth year celebrating everything about this country, and this year we commemorate the grand reopening. This difficult year has not stood in the way of the American spirit of overcoming obstacles and achieving great things—just look at Jessica Long, the champion swimmer who, at 29, is already one of the most successful Paralympic athletes in history and plans to add to her hardware in Tokyo; or NASA's ambitious trip to Mars; the crowdsourced *Ratatouille* musical; or the *Sex and the City* reboot!

Enjoy the fun, food, inspiration and hope this list brings—and share your own big and small #ReasonstoLoveAmerica.

DAN WAKEFORD,
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Follow me on Instagram @danwakeford

One of my Reasons to Love America? Good Morning Bellport flowers, which bring me joy every Saturday. (Here, owner Fabian Bernal, right, with his partner Justin van Fleet.)

THE PEOPLE BEHIND People

Each and every week our photo team works to find and produce the perfect pictures for every story. This issue is packed with so many that we wanted to celebrate some of our team, who share their Reasons to Love America here.

"The Strand Book Store. The New York City favorite is a rabbit hole without the screen." *—Florence Nash, photo news director*

"Sunflower Bakery & Cafe in Galveston, Texas. I'm so excited to be vaccinated and able to go there with my mom again." *—Tiffany Herring, photo researcher*

"The Elizabeth Islands off the southern coast of Massachusetts. With only a few dozen residents and practically no cars or paved roads, you really feel like you're taking a step back in time. The tranquility is a reprieve from the chaos of the world." *—Sarah Burrows, senior photo editor*

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL WELCOME

St Austell, England, June 11

Queen Elizabeth considered cutting a cake with a sword (before finishing the job with a knife) to celebrate the Big Lunch initiative during the G7 Summit, which she attended alongside her daughter-in-law **Camilla,** Duchess of Cornwall, and her granddaughter-in-law **Princess Kate.** Two days later the Queen met President **Joe Biden** and First Lady **Jill Biden** at Windsor Castle (inset), where the trio enjoyed tea.

A-LIST FANS

Los Angeles, June 11

LeBron James and pal Drake sat courtside and cheered on the NBA star's 16-year-old son Bronny at his championship basketball game.

KATY & ORLANDO PUCKER UP!

Venice, June 13

Katy Perry and fiancé Orlando Bloom shared a kiss as they took a selfie while on vacation in Italy, where they also enjoyed cocktails during a gondola ride.

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: STEVE PARSONS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; OLI SCARFF/GETTY IMAGES; CASSY ATHENA/LONDON ENTERTAINMENT/SHUTTERSTOCK; COBRA TEAM/BACKGRID

BILLY THE BUILDER

Carlsbad, Calif., June 5

Fuller House star John Stamos and wife Caitlin McHugh had fun at Legoland California Resort with their 3-year-old son Billy.

GIRLS NIGHT OUT

New York City, June 9

Kelly Ripa and Wendy Williams joined Rosanna Scotto at the soft reopening of her family's restaurant Fresco by Scotto.

ANOTHER GRANDE ENGAGED

Los Angeles, June 8

Broadway actor Frankie Grande proposed to boyfriend Hale Leon. "It was such a perfect, beautiful moment," says Grande, whose younger sister Ariana recently tied the knot.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: SANDY HUFFAKER/LEGOLAND; TODD DANFORTH PHOTOGRAPHY; MICHAEL SIMON/STARTRAKS

Gladys Knight performed her 1970 hit “Friendship Train” with Breakthrough Video of the Year nominee Mickey Guyton at the 2021 CMT Music Awards on June 9 in Nashville.

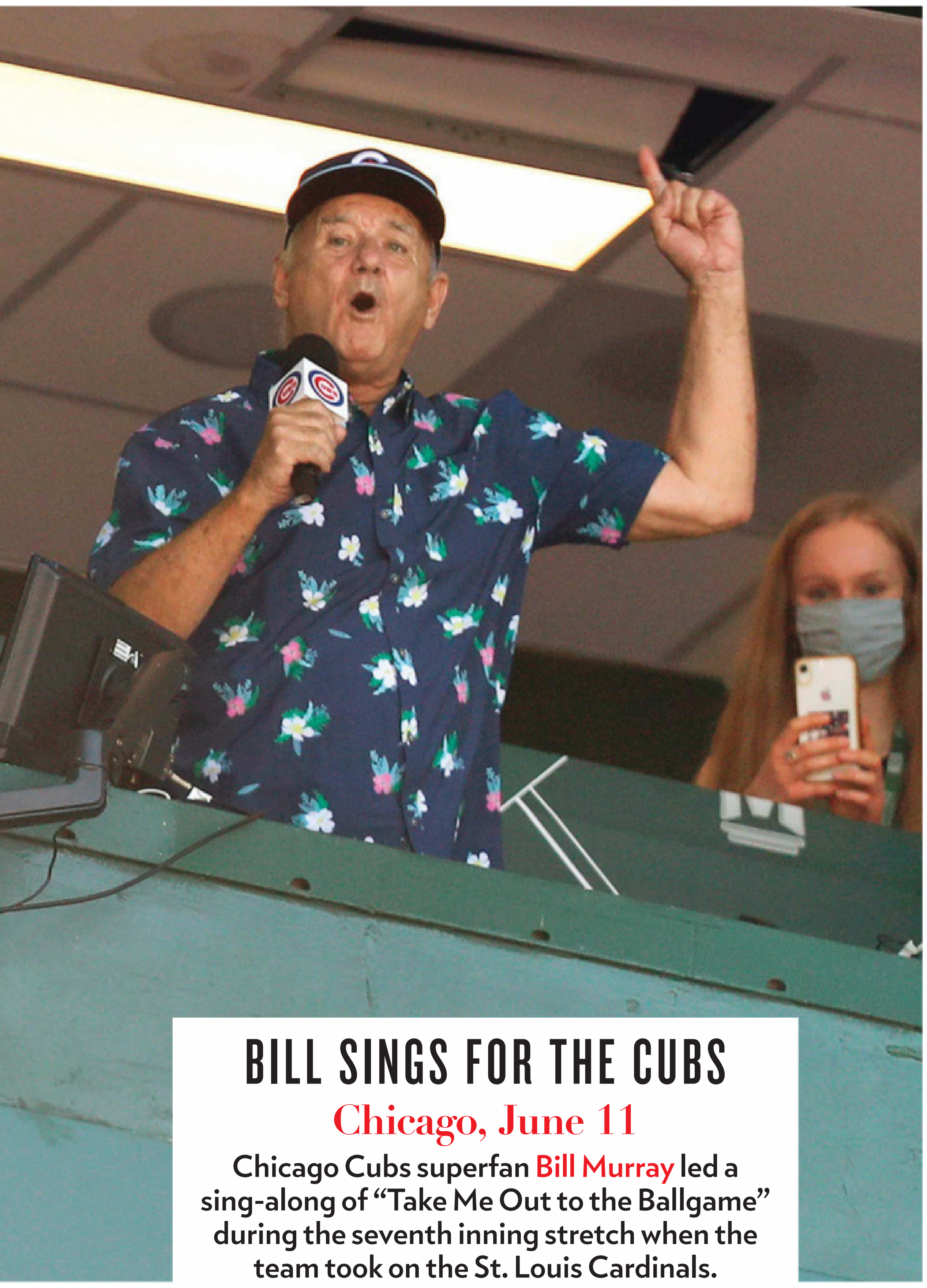
Carrie Underwood won the Video of the Year honors for her and John Legend’s duet “Hallelujah.”

NASHVILLE’S BIG NIGHT!

Cohosts Kelsea Ballerini and Kane Brown both won big: she for CMT Performance of the Year and he for Male Video and Collaborative Video of the Year.

R&B star H.E.R. performed her single “Hold On” with an assist from Chris Stapleton.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: ERIKA GOLDRING/GETTY IMAGES FOR CMT(3); JOHN SHEARER/GETTY IMAGES



BILL SINGS FOR THE CUBS

Chicago, June 11

Chicago Cubs superfan Bill Murray led a sing-along of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" during the seventh inning stretch when the team took on the St. Louis Cardinals.

LIKE MOTHER, LIKE SON

On June 12 Nicki Minaj shared a rare photo of herself with her 9-month-old son—whose name she hasn't shared yet—in coordinating tracksuits on Instagram.

DATE NIGHT IN THE HEIGHTS

New York City, June 9

Lin-Manuel Miranda and wife Vanessa Nadal danced together at the *In the Heights* afterparty following the film's Tribeca Film Festival premiere.

KAMALA HARRIS MAKES MORE HISTORY

Washington, D.C., June 12

Harris became the first sitting Vice President to march in an LGBTQ Pride event when she and husband Doug Emhoff surprised attendees at a parade.

Milo Ventimiglia and Rachel Brosnahan filmed with a Pomeranian pal for the fourth season of Amazon's *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* in New York City on June 10.

STARS ON-SET

On June 11 Harrison Ford was photographed in Scotland dressed as iconic academic-turned-adventurer Indiana Jones while filming with Toby Jones for the franchise's fifth installment.

Rupert Grint and Lauren Ambrose shot a tense scene for Apple TV+'s drama series *Servant* in Philadelphia on June 9.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: STEVE SANDS/NEWYORKNEWSWIRE/MEGA; GILBERT CARRASQUILLO/GC IMAGES; STUART WALLACE/SHUTTERSTOCK; ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES; JAMIE MCCARTHY/GETTY IMAGES; TNS/ZUMA

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Scoop

ALL THE HOLLYWOOD NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW

'GWEN AND BLAKE ARE BOTH ECSTATIC THAT A WEDDING CAN FINALLY HAPPEN' —A SOURCE

The Countdown Is On!

Blake & Gwen Get Ready to Wed

Gwen Stefani is getting prepared to reintroduce herself—as a Mrs.! On June 10 the singer celebrated her upcoming wedding to fiancé Blake Shelton after being whisked away by family members for a surprise bridal shower. "I'm getting married!" the No Doubt frontwoman said in a selfie video posted June 11 to her Instagram Story, where she also shared photos of her gifts, including a program from her parents' 1966 wedding. "Feeling loved feeling blessed," wrote the star.

Stefani, 51, will soon be surrounded by loved ones again when she and the country star, 45, walk down the aisle later this summer. As the COVID-19 crisis continues to improve across the country, the couple have been "finalizing plans," says an insider. "They really wanted a summer wedding and are so happy it

Happy Bride-to-Be On June 11 Stefani posted a photo of herself at her bridal shower on Instagram. "SHE'S GETTING MARRIIIEEEEED," wrote the star.

TOP: TRAE PATTON/NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY IMAGES

The Very Beginning
Stefani and Shelton first became friends while coaching together on *The Voice* in 2014.

She Said Yes!
"We are extremely excited," Shelton wrote on Twitter after announcing their engagement in an Oct. 27 Instagram post.

Their Blended Family
Stefani and her sons (from left: Kingston, Apollo and Zuma) joined Shelton at the L.A. premiere of his film *UglyDolls* in 2019.

can finally go ahead safely. They can't wait to be married—and soon!"

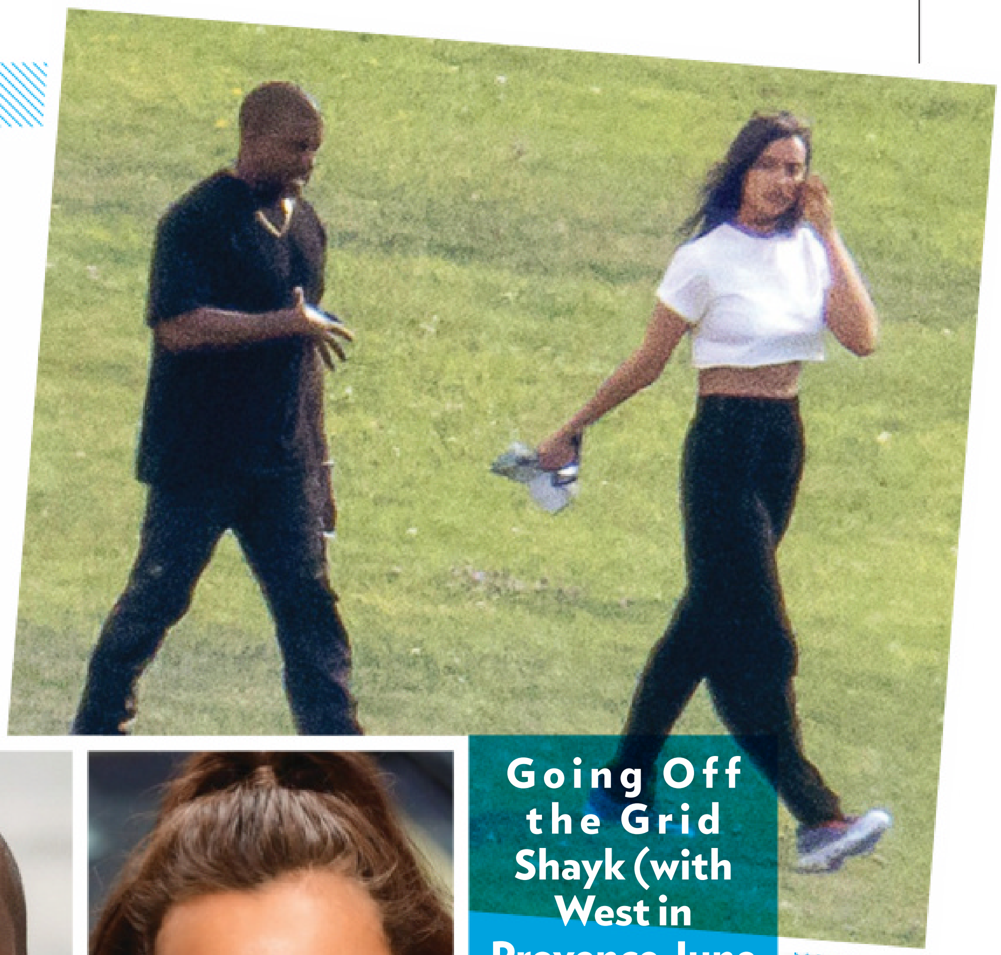
After getting engaged last October, Stefani and Shelton—who first struck up a friendship while working on *The Voice* together in 2014 and started dating a year later following their difficult divorces from Gavin Rossdale and Miranda Lambert, respectively—were "adamant that no wedding would happen until it was safe for family and friends to attend," says a Stefani pal. "Gwen slowly started planning the wedding this spring." The couple are expected to wed at Shelton's Oklahoma ranch, where he built a chapel for Stefani, multiple sources confirm. Just as excited for the big day? Stefani's three sons, Kingston, 15, Zuma, 12, and Apollo, 7. Says the pal: "Blake is a great extra dad and very close with the boys."

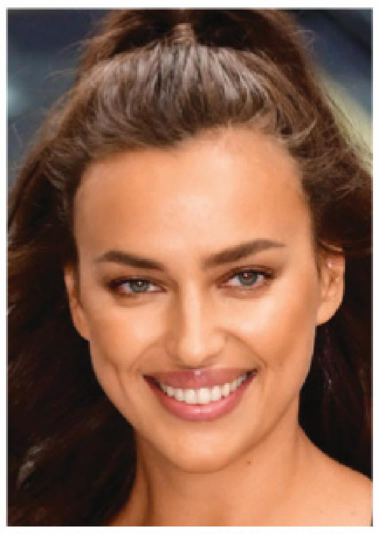
> **'I FEEL SO EXCITED THAT I HAVE A CHANCE AT HAPPINESS FOR A LONG TIME TO COME'**
> —STEFANI ON LIFE WITH SHELTON, TO TODAY

—BRIANNE TRACY with reporting by Pernilla Cedenheim

Kanye West & Irina Shayk's New Romance

Fashion might soon have its next power couple. Four months after wife Kim Kardashian filed for divorce, Kanye West spent his June 8 birthday in France with model Irina Shayk. The rapper, 44, and the onetime *Sports Illustrated* Swimsuit Issue cover star, 35, "have been seeing each other for a while," says a source, who adds, "it is not serious at this point." The duo met years ago through the fashion industry, and she even appeared in his 2010 "Power" music video and walked in his 2012 Kanye West label show. After his split, West pursued Shayk—who shares daughter Lea De Seine, 3, with ex Bradley Cooper—before the pair spent three nights in France. Although they live on opposite coasts (he in L.A., she in N.Y.C.), an insider adds: "He likes spending time with her and plans to see her soon again." —DANA ROSE FALCONE with reporting by Pernilla Cedenheim and Linda Marx





Going Off the Grid
Shayk (with West in Provence June 8) "seems smitten," says an insider. "There is an interest from both sides."

TOP RIGHT: JON KOPALOFF/FILMMAGIC; BOTTOM, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: BACKGRID; JAMES DEVANEY/GC IMAGES; RB/BAUER-GRIFFIN/GC IMAGES

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Going Strong

Kendall Jenner & Devin Booker

On June 12 the model, 25, and the Phoenix Suns star, 24, celebrated one year of dating. The pair were first linked in April 2020 before finally going Instagram official in February for Valentine's Day.

Dating

Lena Dunham & Luis Felber

The *Girls* alum is dating Peruvian-English musician Luis Felber, 35. "Everyone who comes into contact with you—creatively, emotionally, accidentally—is lucky. But I am the luckiest," Dunham, also 35, wrote on Instagram June 9.

Happy Anniversary

Ron & Cheryl Howard

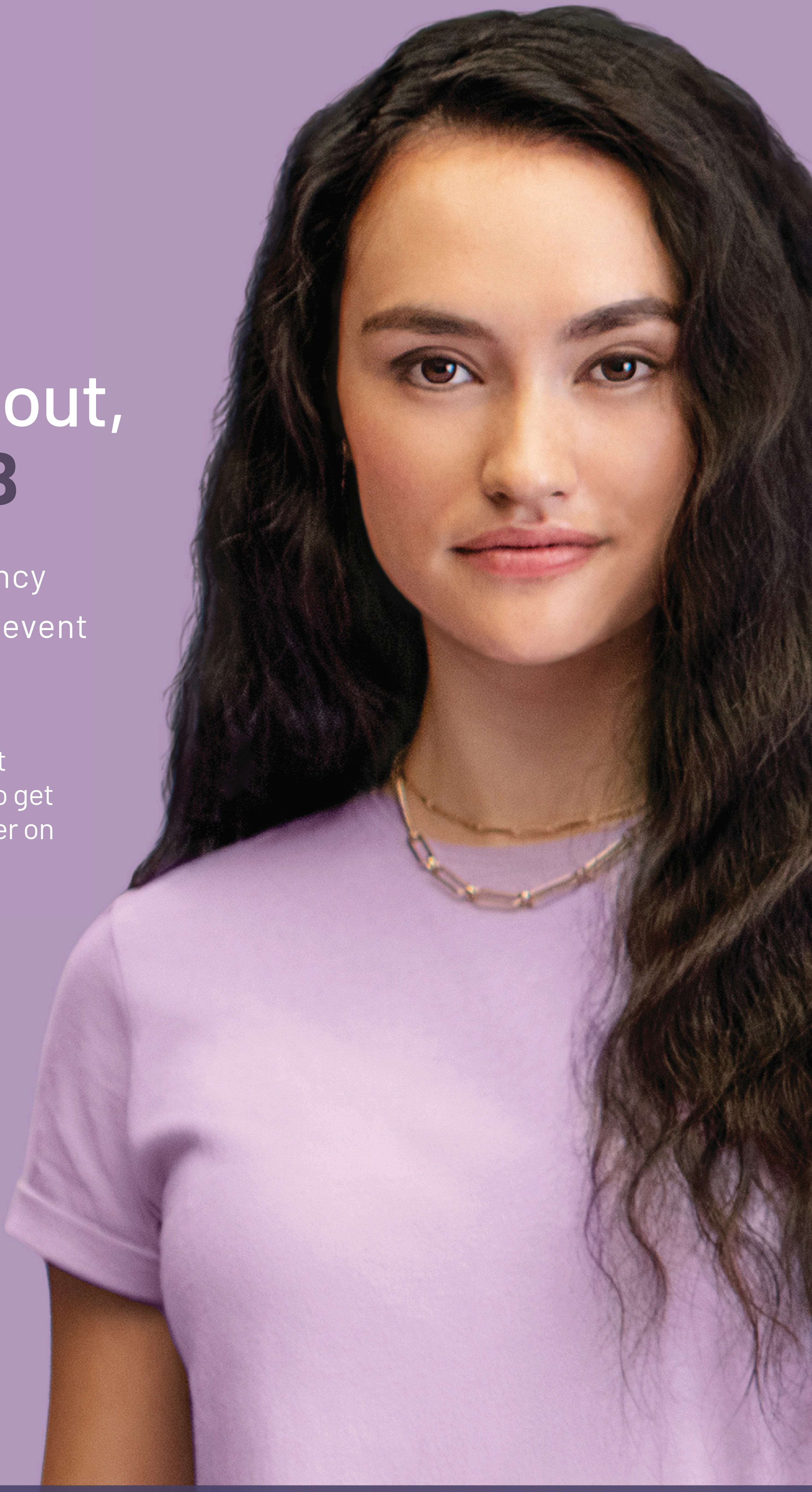
The Oscar-winning director and his wife, both 67, celebrated 46 years of marriage on June 7. "Celebrated quietly but beautifully," Ron, who has four kids with Cheryl, posted. "I'm a lucky fella."

Engaged

Mark Ronson & Grace Gummer

After the 35-year-old actress (Meryl Streep's daughter!) was spotted out with a rock on *that* finger, the musician, 45, confirmed during the June 7 episode of his *FADER Uncovered* podcast that he had popped the question.

TOP LEFT: T.JACKSON/BACKGRID; BOTTOM RIGHT: ROBS-TOPSTAR/BACKGRID; TOP RIGHT, INSET: MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES



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Annie Murphy

My Life After *Schitt's Creek*

Shock Success
"I don't think anyone could have imagined what the show would become," Murphy says of *Schitt's Creek's* popularity.

For five years Annie Murphy starred as bubbly ex-socialite Alexis Rose on Schitt's Creek. *Now the Emmy-winning actress, 34, talks about moving on from the surprise hit series, why she almost quit acting and her dark new AMC comedy,* Kevin Can F*** Himself *(premieres June 20).*

You play a fed-up housewife with a dangerous agenda on *Kevin.* How did you choose the role?
It was really important to prove to myself that I could do something different. This character was the most beautiful 180 from Alexis. She is very angry, frustrated, sad and unfashionable. It checked all the boxes for what I was looking to do next.

In 2013 you nearly quit acting. Why?
I had gone almost two years without booking a job. It was bleak as hell. I would wait by the phone but never get the call. That really starts to take a toll. I confessed to the universe that I was done. The next day I got the audition for *Schitt's Creek.*

Do fans call you Alexis in public?
People are *past* calling me Alexis and now call me Annie, which is very disconcerting. My initial reaction is, "Oh, frig. I forgot. Where did I meet this person?" I have to come up with some creative way to get out of the fact that I don't remember who they are.

—EMILY STROHM

With Catherine O'Hara on *Schitt's Creek*

With Raymond Lee on *Kevin Can F*** Himself*

Taking Big Steps
Lopez's mom "is thrilled they are back together," a Lopez source says of her rekindled romance with Affleck.

Ben Meets the Family—Again!

Lopez and her mom on May 2

Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez's romantic redux is deepening. On June 9 the actor, 48, spent time with Lopez's mom, Guadalupe Rodríguez, in Las Vegas while directing a project there, as Lopez, 51, shot a music video in Miami. Then two days after reuniting in L.A. on June 11, the stars celebrated her sister Lynda's birthday at Nobu in Malibu with Lopez's 13-year-old twins, Max and Emme (with ex-husband Marc Anthony). The pair "were very affectionate," an insider says of the couple, who were engaged for a little over a year before they split in 2004 and reunited in April after Lopez broke off her engagement to Alex Rodriguez. "Ben and her kids seemed comfortable together." Adds a Lopez friend: "The kids are slowly getting to know Ben, and everything seems to be running smoothly. Jen hasn't looked this happy in a long time."

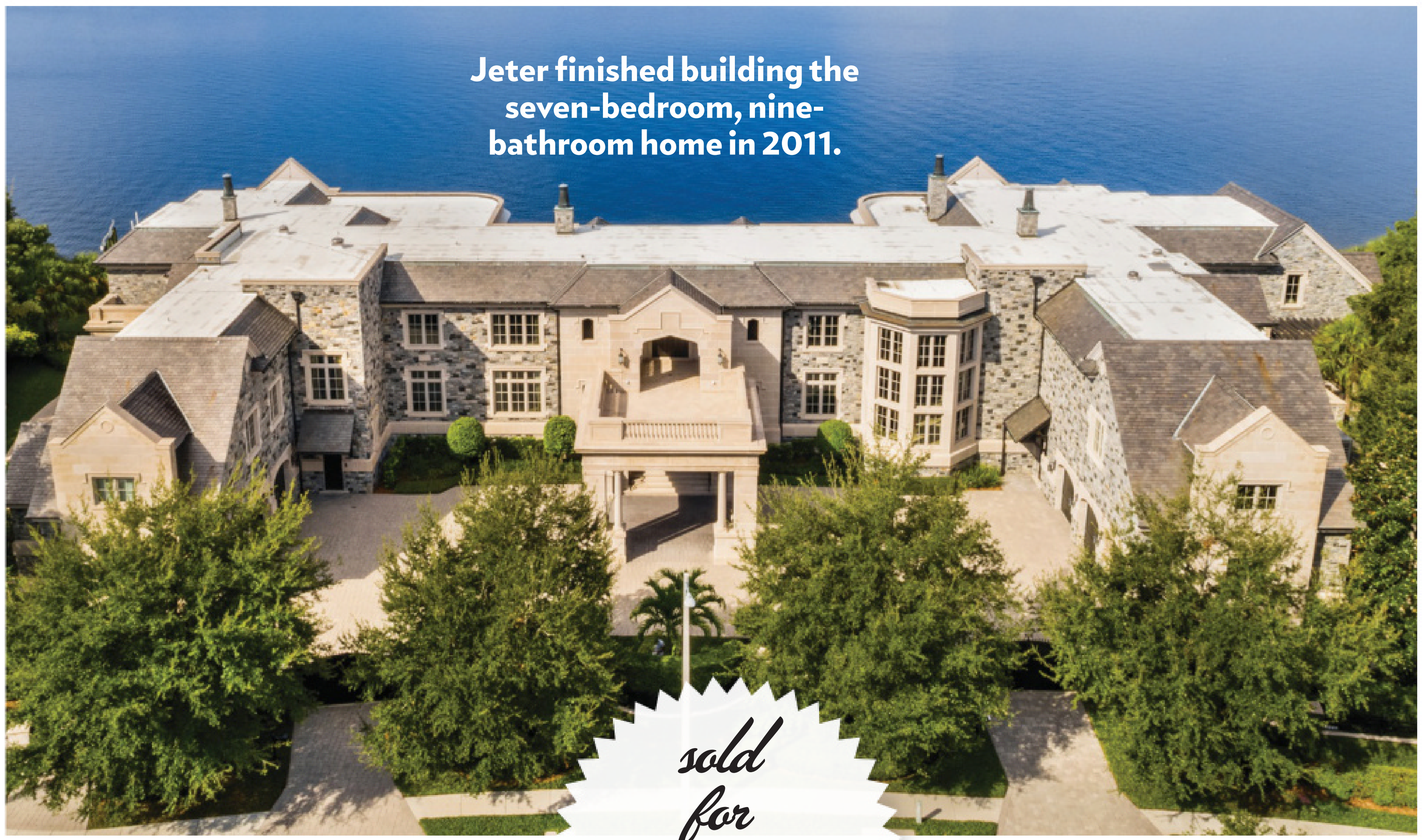
—BRIANNE TRACY with reporting by Pernilla Cedenheim

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: CARLYLE ROUTH; KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES; NATHAN CONGLETON/NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY IMAGES; JON KOPALOFF/FILMMAGIC; EVERETT; JOJO WHILDEN/AMC

OPEN HOUSE

Derek Jeter's Tampa Bay Mansion

After listing their palatial waterfront residence for $29 million last September, the retired New York Yankees shortstop, 47, and wife Hannah, 31, a model, have sold the home for $22.5 million. Dubbed "St. Jetersburg" after nearby city St. Petersburg, the sprawling 30,000-sq.-ft. property that Tom Brady and wife Gisele Bündchen once rented after he moved to Tampa to play for the Buccaneers is reportedly the most expensive and largest house ever to be built in the area.



Jeter finished building the seven-bedroom, nine-bathroom home in 2011.

The dining room looks out onto Hillsborough Bay.

sold for **$22.5** MILLION

One of the nine bathrooms has a walk-in shower, as well as a soaker tub.

Nearly 9,000 sq. ft. of outdoor space include a pool, spa and two boat lifts.

The clubroom features a full bar and a billiards table.

The kitchen boasts two massive islands.

(JETER) CRAIG BARRITT/GETTY IMAGES; (REAL ESTATE) UNEEK IMAGE(6)

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Angelina's Whirlwind N.Y.C. Getaway!

Angelina Jolie and her kids kicked off summer early with a Big Apple adventure. During the second week of June, Jolie, 46, went sightseeing all over the city, working in several fun stops, including the Brooklyn cultural center Pioneer Works, with her six children: Maddox, 19, Pax, 17, Zahara, 16, Shiloh, 15, and 12-year-old twins Vivienne and Knox— whom she shares with ex Brad Pitt. "The kids are growing up and are so close," a source says. "They were out to museums and dinner with each other and had a nice time." The actress also visited her ex, *Trainspotting* actor Jonny Lee Miller. The two remained friends after their 1999 split, the source says, and Knox and Miller's son are close pals who hung out during the visit. Jolie's trip east comes right after her birthday, which she marked with a surprise dinner celebration with the kids in L.A. on June 4.

—KARA WARNER with Mary Green

Angelina Heads East Jolie and her six children recently enjoyed a trip to N.Y.C. that included a visit to the Brooklyn Museum (inset).

Jonny Lee Miller

Elisa Donovan

Looking Back 26 Years After *Clueless*

1995 *Clueless*

then & now!

While playing fashion-forward mean girl Amber in the classic 1995 teen comedy *Clueless,* Elisa Donovan was battling some dark demons. The actress says she nearly had a heart attack because of complications from her struggle with anorexia. Now Donovan—who went on to appear on the *Clueless* TV spinoff, then *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*—is revisiting her younger years in the spotlight in her new memoir, *Wake Me When You Leave.* "It's important to be able to acknowledge the emotional and mental challenges in life because somehow, culturally, we seem to be afraid of those kinds of things, but to move on, we have to share them," says Donovan, 50, who adds that addressing her ups and downs in the book "helped me heal."

Now in a happier and healthier place and married to Charlie Bigelow, who works in equity sales, the actress says she talks to their daughter Scarlett, 9, about having a positive body image. "I certainly hope to pass on to her that we are not our physical appearance, that the body is doing us a great service," she says. "It's bringing us through this world, and we need to treat it with love."

'WE JUST GOT TO REALLY LIVE IN THOSE CHARACTERS. I WOULD DEFINITELY DO A SEQUEL'
—ON *CLUELESS*

Although she wasn't in a great place while filming *Clueless,* Donovan—who remains friends with her costar Donald Faison—still has positive memories from the movie and of her late costar Brittany Murphy, whom she calls "a really sweet person," adding, "She just was an incredibly talented girl with a great spirit." Donovan says she still gets recognized "all the time" for the role, and to this day, fans approach her with Amber's classic quip: "My plastic surgeon doesn't want me doing any activity where balls fly at my nose."

—JEN JUNEAU

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: WALTER MCBRIDE/WIREIMAGE; ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/FILMMAGIC; SHUTTERSTOCK; DIGGZY-JESAL/SPLASH NEWS

Lauren Burnham and Arie Luyendyk Jr.

Babies

Family of five! *Bachelor* couple **Arie Luyendyk Jr.,** 39, and **Lauren Burnham,** 29, welcomed twins, a boy and a girl. The two also share daughter **Alessi,** 2. "Spending time cherishing these moments," the proud father wrote on Instagram. ● Country singer **Chris Lane,** 36, and his wife, former *Bachelor* star **Lauren Bushnell Lane,** 31, announced the June 8 arrival of their first child, son **Dutton Walker.** "I've never felt an immediate unconditional love like I now have," she told *People*.

Engaged

Orange Is the New Black star **Taryn Manning,** 42, is engaged after musician **Anne Cline,** 31, popped the question at a restaurant in Panama City, Fla., on June 11. ● 5 Seconds of Summer frontman **Luke Hemmings,** 24, revealed that he has been engaged to *X-Factor* alum **Sierra Deaton,** 30, since February. They've been dating since 2018.

Health

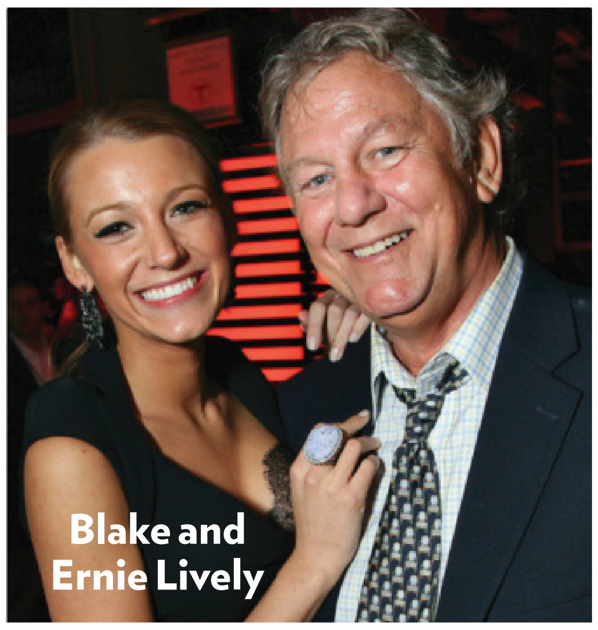
News anchor **Christiane Amanpour,** 63, shared on CNN that she's undergoing chemotherapy for ovarian cancer after having "successful major surgery to remove it." She said she is "confident" about her long-term prognosis.

Controversy

Bachelor host **Chris Harrison,** 49, announced his exit from the show after nearly two decades. His departure comes months after he stepped away from the franchise over racially insensitive comments.

Deaths

Actor **Ernie Lively,** a father of five—including actresses **Robyn** and **Blake Lively**—and Hollywood veteran of more than 50 years, died of cardiac complications in Los Angeles on June 3. He was 74. ● *Ryan's Hope* actor **John Gabriel** has died at 90, his daughter the actress **Andrea Gabriel** announced on June 13. ● **Juan Nelson,** longtime bassist for Ben Harper and the Innocent Criminals, died of unknown causes on June 9 at age 62.


Blake and Ernie Lively

Happy Birthday!

Mindy Kaling, 42
June 24, 1979

Ariana Grande, 28
June 26, 1993

Kathy Bates, 73
June 28, 1948

By ALE RUSSIAN

Bee wore orange on the *Full Frontal* set in 2019 for National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Samantha Bee

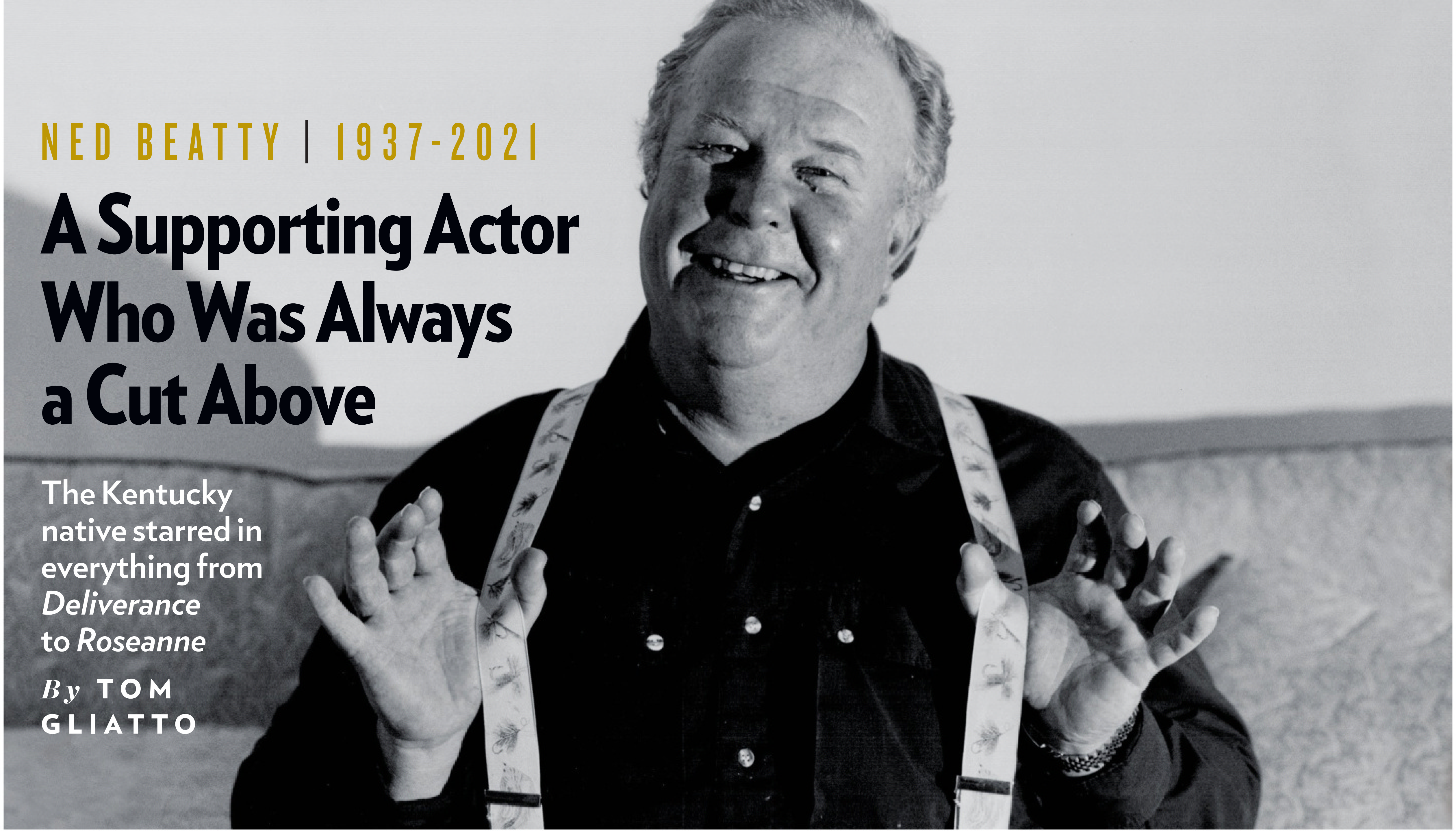
Why I Care
PERSONAL STORIES ABOUT GIVING BACK

The *Full Frontal* host, 51, is fighting to end gun violence and wearing orange to help raise awareness

If you live in the U.S. or know anything about the U.S., you probably are well aware that we have a massive issue with gun violence. Everytown for Gun Safety is an organization whose mission is to save lives. They work to mobilize people on the ground and pressure our politicians to stop "sending thoughts and prayers" [after a shooting] and actually live by those values. I've been a supporter of one of their subgroups, Moms Demand Action, for a few years. Most recently we did a *Full Frontal* special focusing on gun violence and worked with Shannon Watts of Moms Demand Action to discuss gun control as a local issue. Every June is their Wear Orange campaign, which was started by friends of Hadiya Pendleton, a high schooler who was tragically killed in 2013 as a result of gun violence. On the first Friday of June, people wear orange to honor the victims and raise awareness. I'm tired of being asked to accept the unacceptable. People need to pick up the phone, call their representatives and demand change. —*Reported by* MIA McNIECE

For more information, go to **wearorange.org**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: JEAN BAPTISTE LACROIX/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; ALEX BERLINER/BEI/SHUTTERSTOCK; COURTESY SAMANTHA BEE; MEDIAPUNCH/SHUTTERSTOCK



NED BEATTY | 1937-2021

A Supporting Actor Who Was Always a Cut Above

The Kentucky native starred in everything from *Deliverance* to *Roseanne*

By TOM GLIATTO

Ned Beatty, a rumpled, crinkle-eyed character actor with more than 160 credits—including classic movies like *Deliverance* (1972) and *Network* (1976)—didn't mind that he wasn't considered for leading-man roles. "They're more trouble than they're worth," he told *People* in 1977. "I feel sorry for people in a star position—it's unnatural."

The 83-year-old Beatty, who died on June 13 in L.A. of natural causes, was "an unforgettable performer," said actress Valerie Perrine, a costar in 1978's *Superman,* in which he played villain Gene Hackman's bumbling lackey. The Louisville native was a natural scene-stealer in both comedy and drama, often taking advantage of the sly, insinuating charm of his southern accent. His film debut in the Oscar-nominated *Deliverance,* as a businessman on a rafting trip who endures a harrowing sexual assault in the backwoods, "scared the hell out of people," he later said. He went on to play a corrupt sheriff in *White Lightning* (1973), a smarmy college dean in *Back to School* (1986), John Goodman's traveling-salesman dad from 1989 to 1994 on ABC's *Roseanne* (Beatty's own father was a traveling salesman) and a tough detective on three seasons of NBC's *Homicide: Life on the Streets* (1993-95). He thrived on the variety and accepted the lack of public recognition. "For people like me," he said, "there's a lot of 'I know you! I know you! What have I seen you in?' "

What mattered was working—his final appearances were in 2013—and creating performances that are still capable of giving surprise. "Stars never want to throw the audience a curve ball," he said, "but my great joy is throwing curve balls."

Lasting Legacy The actor is survived by his fourth wife, Sandy, and eight children.

Versatile Scene-Stealer

Deliverance (1972) The drama, costarring Burt Reynolds, "was my first film and my best," he said.

Network (1976) Beatty (right) received his only Oscar nod for the satire of TV news, costarring Peter Finch (left) and Robert Duvall.

Superman (1978) His turn as Gene Hackman's henchman Otis was a rare foray into flat-out comedy. He reprised the role in the 1980 sequel.

Homicide: Life on the Streets (1993-95) He was Det. Stan Bolander on the series, costarring Richard Belzer.

Toy Story 3 He was the voice of a sinister teddy bear named Lots-o'-Huggin'—aka Lotso—in the 2010 Pixar hit.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: PETER POWER/TORONTO STAR/GETTY IMAGES; HECTOR MATA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; EVERETT(2); WARNER BROS/DC COMICS/KOBAL/SHUTTERSTOCK; EVERETT(2)

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Stories to make you...

smile!

A prankster horse steals the show at his owner's maternity photo shoot

CINCINNATI, OHIO

After three rained-out photo shoots—and just two weeks from her June 14 due date—Amanda Eckstein, 37, was really looking forward to having her maternity photos taken. Eckstein, who works at her dad's auto-mechanic business, had set up the shoot at her family's farm with her boyfriend, Phil Warner, 40. What she didn't expect was to be photobombed—and then completely upstaged—by one of her horses, a 12-year-old named Buckshot.

"I said 'Smile,' and sure enough, he smiled," says photographer Kristen Zaffiro, whose Facebook post of Buckshot's shenanigans received more than 300,000 views in three days. "He's always been a little stinker since the day I got him. He just loves attention," says Eckstein, who has had Buckshot since he was 3. "I laugh every time I see the photos. I was going to put it in a frame on our nightstand, but now we're going to blow it up and put it on the wall."

"I just kept thinking, 'Stop doing that, we have to get these pictures done!'" says Eckstein (with Warner and Buckshot).

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM: CEDRIC HAMPTON(2); KRISTEN ZAFFIRO(2)

"They helped in ways I can't even explain," says Harrison (far left, and with Hampton, third from left, and coworkers).

A teen's coworkers team up to help him graduate

CENTER POINT, ALA.

Timothy Harrison's high school graduation was set for May 27. But without a ride to the venue 20 miles away, the 18-year-old resigned himself to missing the ceremony and instead turned up for his regular shift as a waiter at Waffle House. That's when manager Cedric Hampton, 38, sprang into action. "I was like, 'No, we're going to get you to your graduation,'" says Hampton, who worked with other employees to buy Harrison a new outfit, secure his cap and gown, and get him to graduation. "I'm so grateful," says Harrison, who's since received a full scholarship to a local community college. "It was a day I won't forget."

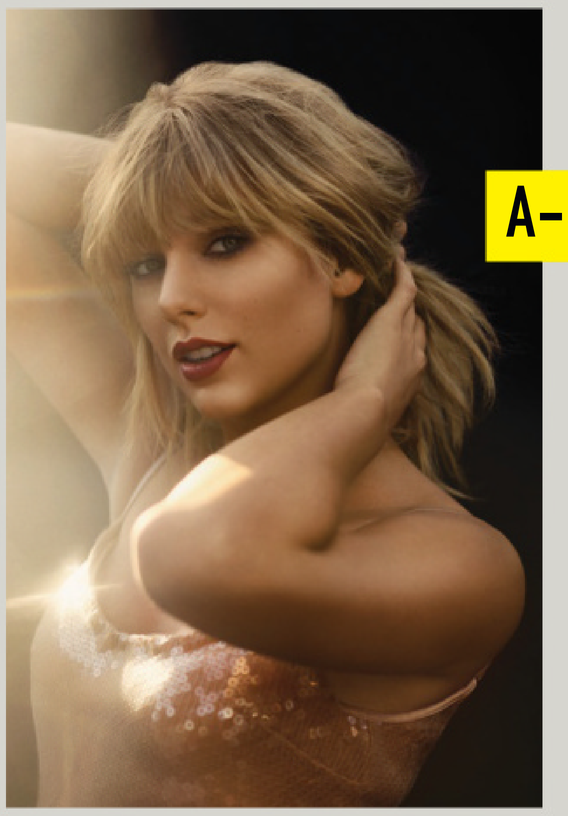
By MICHELLE BOUDIN *and* DIANE HERBST

Have a story that makes you smile?
Send suggestions to **storiestomakeyousmile@people.com**

People on TV!

TUNE IN 5 NIGHTS A WEEK!

Exclusive Pop Culture News



A-List Celebrity Interviews

Real Hero Stories

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WGCL 7:00p WPCH 10:30p / 11:30a	KTVK 6:30p / 11:00p	KMOV 6:30p / 12:30a MMOV 9:00p	KPTV 7:00p KPDX 10:00p	WSMV 1:00a / 12:30p	WFSB 7:30p / 1:30a	KCTV 6:30p / 12:30a KSMO 12:00a	WHNS 7:30p / 11:30p	KVVU 7:00p	WALA 10:30p / 4:00a	ENEM 7:30p / 12:00p WNEM 1:30a	WSHM 7:30p WGGB 1:00a EGGB 10:30p

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: JOSHUA KISSI; JIM KIERNAN(2); BEN TRIVETT; RORY DOYLE; THOMAS WHITESIDE; ARI AND LOUISE; MILLER MOBLEY

People picks

Edited By
Tom Gliatto

THE BEST STUFF TO WATCH, READ & LISTEN TO THIS WEEK!

Alberto (Grazer, left) and buddy Luca (Tremblay).

DISNEY/PIXAR

DISNEY+ | Luca

Two magical sea-dwellers make waves on land

FAMILY Luca (voiced by Jacob Tremblay), the hero of this latest Pixar film, is a young sea monster living off the coast of a small fishing village in Italy. Bored by his daily life underwater—he's shepherd to an unchallengingly docile school of fish—he already knows it's within his power to step ashore, dry off and be transformed into a human. (To switch back seems to require not much more than a light sprinkling of moisture, even dew from a tree.) But Luca is a good creature, determined to be obedient to his parents (Maya Rudolph and Jim Gaffigan). They've warned him about the dangers of mingling with the villagers, who make their living fishing and so come well-supplied with nets and harpoons. Then he meets Alberto (Jack Dylan Grazer), a slightly older sea monster who shows him how much happiness humans experience just looking up at the night sky, where the heavenly anchovies gleam (Alberto gets some things wrong). Most importantly, at least to a newly transformed boy like Luca, is that you get to zoom up and down cobblestoned streets on Vespa scooters. *Luca* is a simple, innocent tale that's close to fable and utterly enchanting in its sincerity and emotional directness. If audiences turned into sea monsters every time they came in contact with their own teardrops, Disney would have a colossal marketing problem. *(Launches June 18)*

'A simple, innocent tale that's close to fable'

4:32 am — Restless
6:27 am — Exhausted
10:49 am — Stressed
1:45 pm — Loving
3:46 pm — Excited
5:47 pm — Insecure
8:42 pm — Hopeful
11:07 pm — Grateful
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HOW ARE YOU?
Check in with yourself and pick a mindfulness session to improve your day!
START
Your emotions change. That's why MyLife™ offers a personalized mindfulness solution, any time of day.
It all starts with how you're feeling, right now. You'll enjoy a customized experience from over 400 relaxation activities, each one about 10 minutes or less. MyLife delivers exactly what you need — because it always starts with *you*.
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NETFLIX | Fatherhood

Kevin Hart shows plenty of heart as a widowed dad

COMEDY-DRAMA Matt (Hart) is thrilled by the arrival of his baby daughter Maddy—then his wife dies of a pulmonary embolism shortly after giving birth. Despite the well-intentioned advice of his mother-in-law (Alfre Woodard), Matt wants to raise Maddy on his own. He has two simple rules to guide him: Do what his wife would have wanted, and do what's best for the child. *Fatherhood* is a fairly conventional but attractive film, riding out its emotional highs and lows smoothly. Hart gets the laughs and tears he deserves, and Woodard is tart but ultimately graceful. There's never been a movie that wasn't bettered by her presence. *(Launches June 18)*

Hart, Woodard and Alyssia Kate Maurin as baby Maddy. More on Woodard, page 89.

MUSIC | Sleater-Kinney, *Path of Wellness*

ROCK The synths that were embraced on 2019's divisive, St. Vincent-produced *The Center Won't Hold* haven't faded completely on this 10th studio album, but *Path's* intricate guitars and tight melodies reassert Sleater-Kinney's status as one of the key rock groups of the past 25 years. *(Available now)*

Bandmates Corin Tucker (left) and Carrie Brownstein.

HBO MAX | Starstruck

ROMANTIC COMEDY Jessie (Rose Matafeo), a New Zealander living in London, has a one-night stand with Tom (Nikesh Patel), who happens to be a movie star. The relationship turns into something more than that, but the two of them have a hard time determining what, exactly. This new series is a charmer, with lots of good lines ("Afternoon sex is basically an errand"). *(Streaming now)*

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: MARK JOHNSON/HBO MAX; PHILIPPE BOSSE/NETFLIX; KARWAI TANG/WIREIMAGE; ANGEL MARCHINI/SOPA IMAGES/LIGHTROCKET/GETTY IMAGES; ASTRID STAWIARZ/GETTY IMAGES

Q&A

Marina

The Welsh singer and songwriter, 35, just released her latest album, Ancient Dreams in a Modern Land.

What's the significance of that title?
I just liked it—it's deep but not *that* deep, you know?

In 2018

Up until a few years ago your stage name included "…and the Diamonds." Why did you change it?
"Marina and the Diamonds," it's cute. It's for your 20s, but I'm 35 now. We all have to grow up at some point. Going with [just] my name solved that!

Care to share any guilty pleasures you had during lockdown?
I'm not proud of it, but I watched 10 seasons of *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*. I feel like it wasn't good for me, but my brain loved it.

—TOMÁS MIER

Byrne as a woman who needs, and finds, a new direction.

APPLE TV+ | Physical

Rose Byrne gets fit and ready to fight

COMEDY Despite a flawless appearance, Sheila Rubin, a married mom in 1980s San Diego, is roiled by disgust with herself and everyone else. We know this because we hear her inner thoughts—sharp, bitter put-downs—and watch her cope, in moments of stress, with an eating disorder. Then Sheila finds salvation dancing to the beat at an aerobics studio. But fitness also unleashes ambition and ruthlessness (this is the '80s, an age wildly receptive to profit). Byrne is close to perfect in her focused sense of attack—it's an ice-pick performance. *(First three episodes launch June 18)*

Shlesinger (left) with Margaret Cho and Kimia Behpoornia.

NETFLIX | Good on Paper

COMEDY Comedian and actress Iliza Shlesinger pulls double duty as writer and star of this "mostly" true story based on her entertaining—if slightly unnerving—experience with a boyfriend who wasn't at all what he appeared to be. Ryan Hansen plays the dubious Mr. Right. *(Launches June 23)*

FROM TOP: APPLE TV+; NETFLIX

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Rise Again: Tulsa and the Red Summer

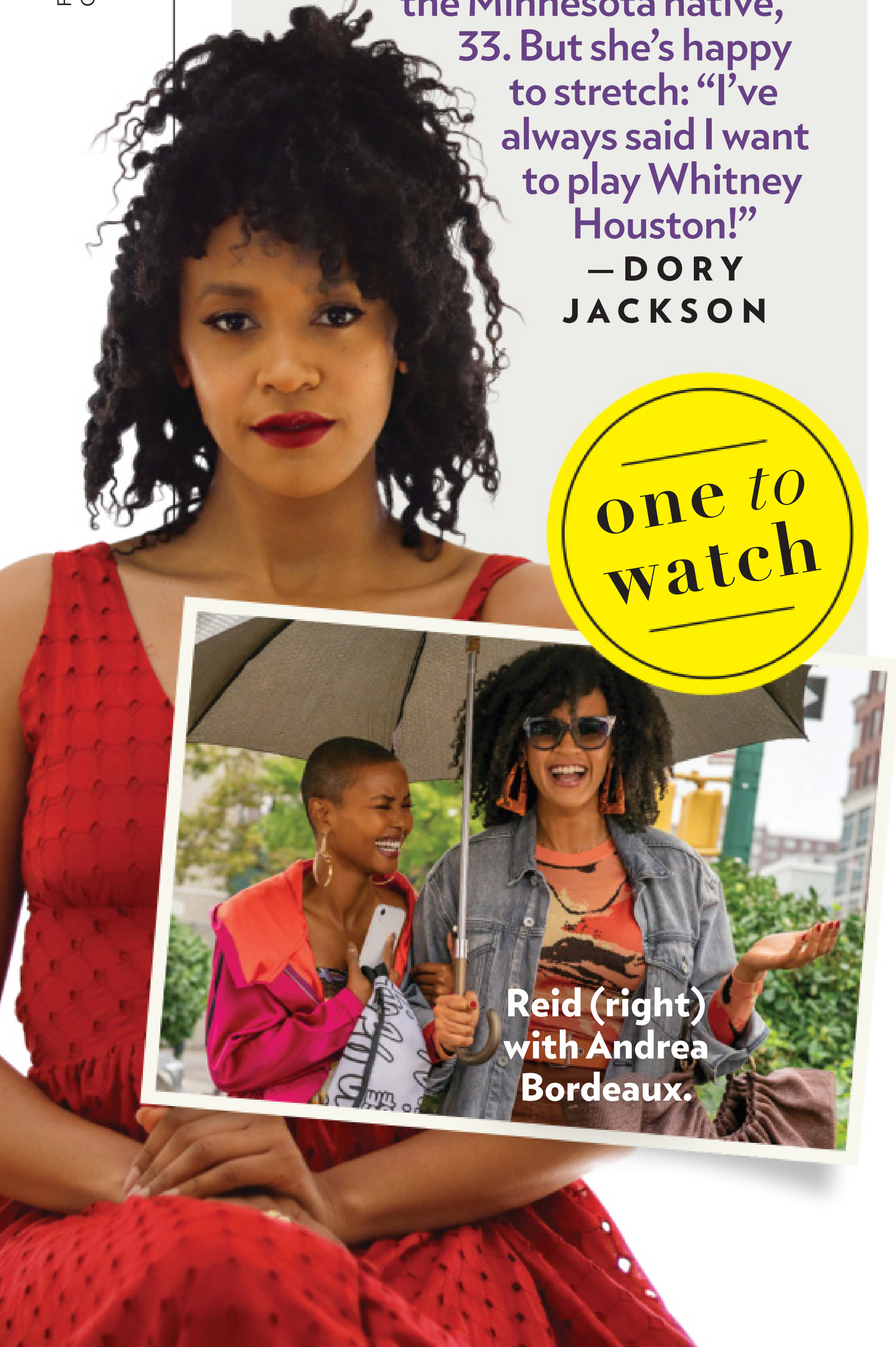
DOCUMENTARY This somber film examines the horrifying white-mob massacre of an estimated 300 Black people in Tulsa, 100 years ago, as well as other race attacks—a bloody prelude—in 1919, the so-called Red Summer. *(June 18, 9 p.m.; also on Hulu)*

Run the World's Corbin Reid

The *How to Get Away with Murder* alum plays Ph.D. student Sondi on the Starz series about four friends in Harlem. "I'm really enjoying this role—it's super comfortable," says the Minnesota native, 33. But she's happy to stretch: "I've always said I want to play Whitney Houston!"

—DORY JACKSON

one to watch



Reid (right) with Andrea Bordeaux.

FROM TOP: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; BRYAN CARPENDER; CARA HOWE/STARZ

A new weekly podcast!

People in the '90s

You're obsessed with the '90s. We get it. We're here to help.

PEOPLE is going back to the best decade ever with exclusive celebrity interviews and deep dives into cultural touchstones (and one-hit wonders). Join in as we revisit the moments that were pop culture gold.

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PEOPLE's
Deputy West Coast Editor
JASON SHEELER

PEOPLE's
Style and Beauty Director
ANDREA LAVINTHAL

SNAP TO LISTEN

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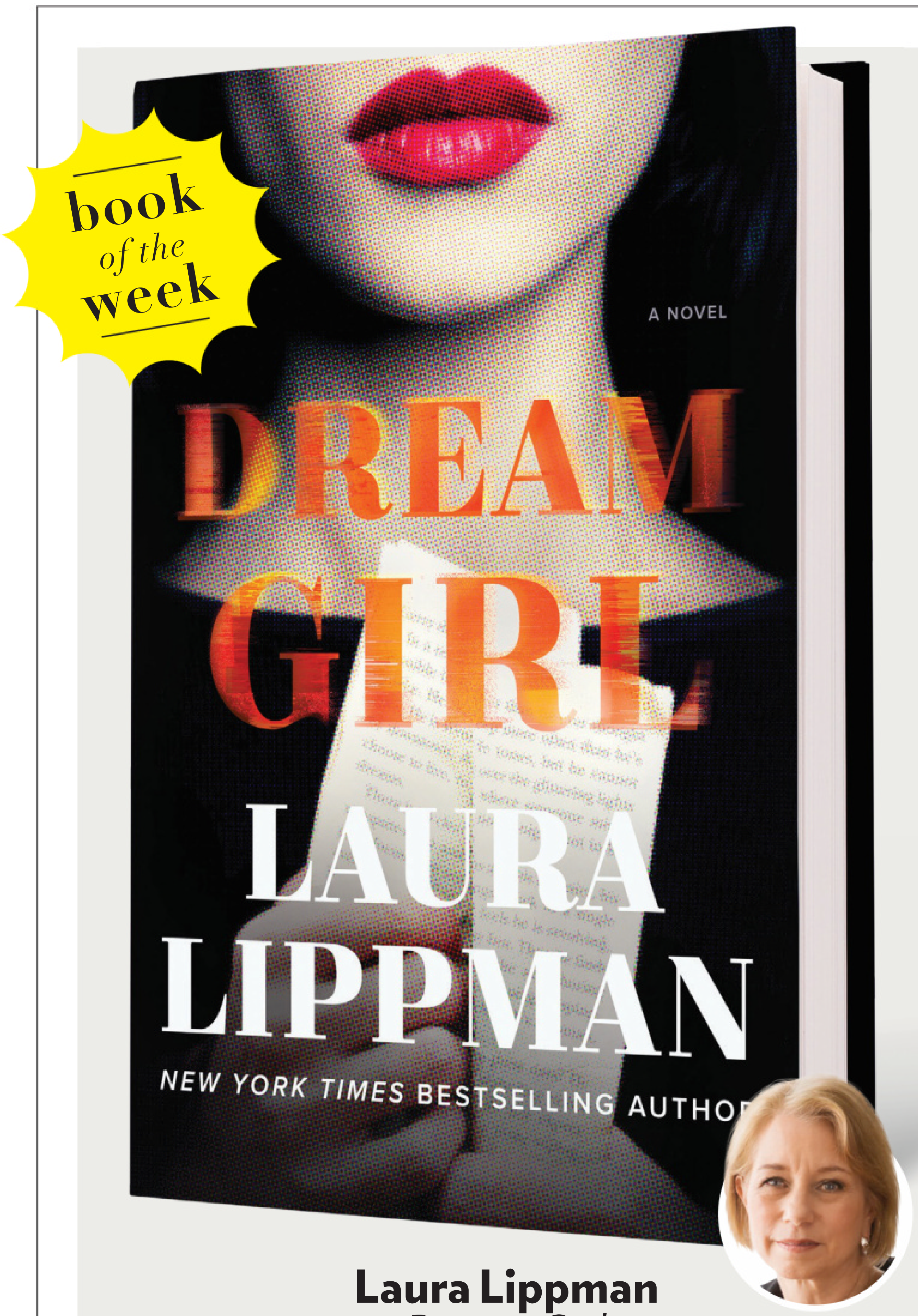
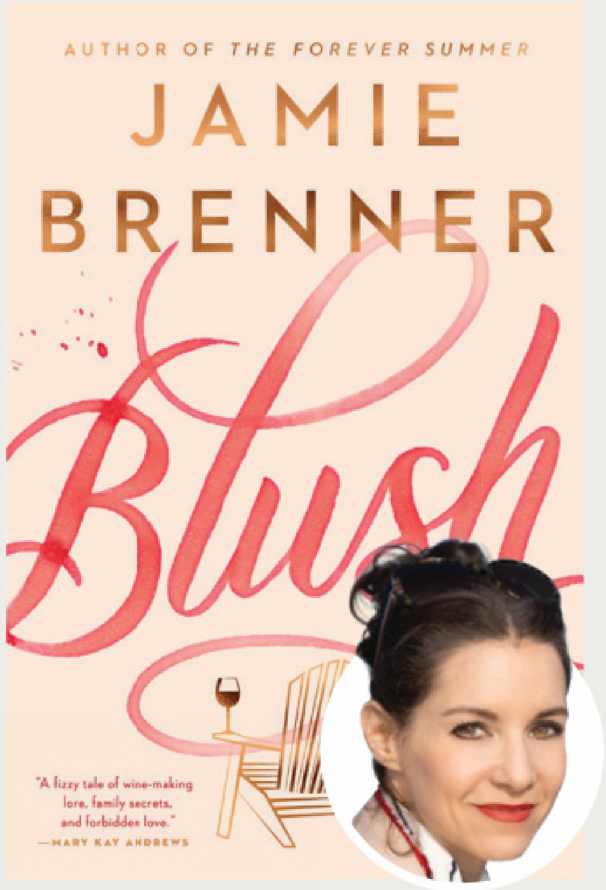
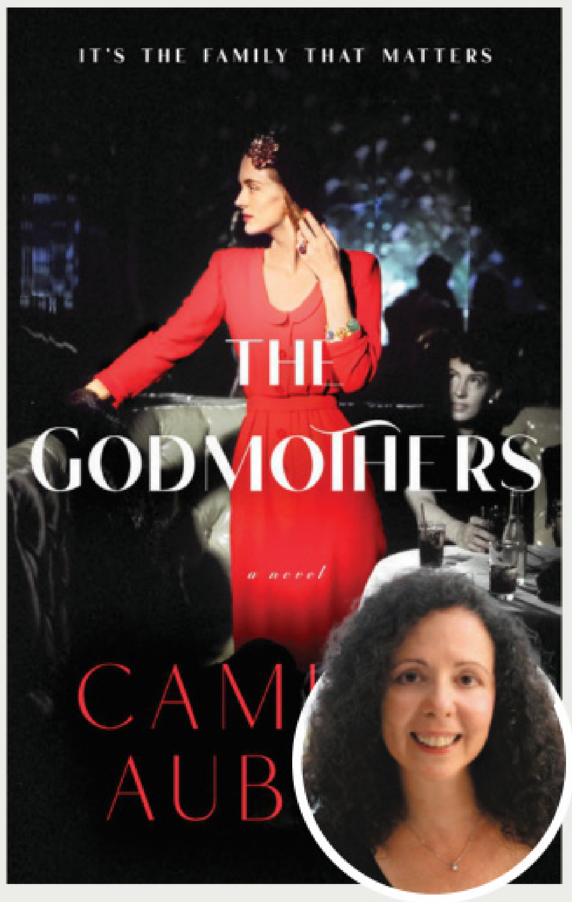
The Best New Books

A novelist bedeviled by his past, drama at a family winery, and girl power in mid-century Manhattan

Edited by KIM HUBBARD







INSETS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: UMBERTO MARCENARO; LESLEY UNRUH; KATHLEEN O'DONNELL

Laura Lippman
Dream Girl
NOVEL

In what she calls her first horror novel, Lippman takes us into the cantankerous mind of author Gerry Andersen, who lies immobile in his swank Baltimore condo after a nasty fall. Zonked on painkillers, he revisits three failed marriages (not his fault) and talks with a woman claiming to be the lead character of his 20-year-old bestseller. Then the dead body appears. With a tip of the hat to Stephen King's *Misery*, *Dream Girl* is funny and suspenseful, with a dread-worthy final twist.

Jamie Brenner
Blush
NOVEL

If sipping wine while gazing at lush vineyards appeals, this summery rosé of a novel is for you. The Hollander family winery is in jeopardy. But as interests clash, matriarch Vivian, her daughter Leah and her granddaughter Sadie are inspired by trashy '80s novels to create their own blend of female empowerment.

Camille Aubray
The Godmothers
NOVEL

Three women marry into a wealthy Italian American clan in '30s Manhattan. When their husbands leave during the war, they must grapple with secrets and keep the not-quite-legal family business afloat. A fascinating, fast-paced trip into the Mob underworld.

New in Nonfiction

Tiya Miles
All That She Carried

A bag of totemic belongings passed from an enslaved mother to her daughter starts historian Miles on a journey to document their lives.

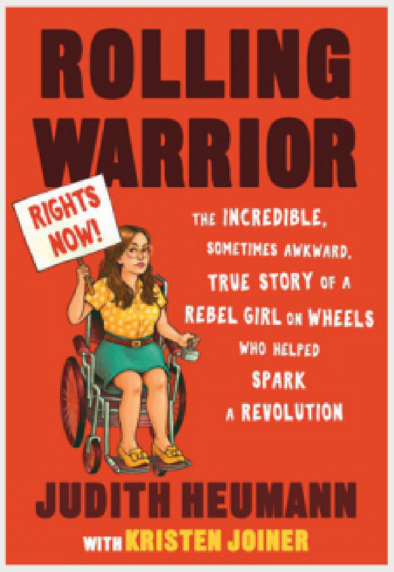
Amanda Kloots
Live Your Life

The wrenching story of the death of Kloots's husband, Broadway star Nick Cordero, from COVID-19—and how she found strength to carry on.

Liz Hauck
Home Made

When the author created a weekly cooking-and-dining program at a residential home for adolescent boys in state care, she transformed lives—including her own.

Kid Pick!



Judith Heumann
Rolling Warrior

How a disability rights leader fought obstacles from the time she was "a kid in a wheelchair." Inspiration and a call to activism for middle-grade readers.

Contributors BOOKS CLAIRE MARTIN, ROBIN MICHELI, ELLEN SHAPIRO MUSIC ERIC RENNER BROWN TV KARA WARNER

100 REASONS TO LOVE AMERICA

EXCLUSIVE People EXCLUSIVE

#1 Dwayne Johnson

'YOU CAN ACHIEVE ANYTHING'

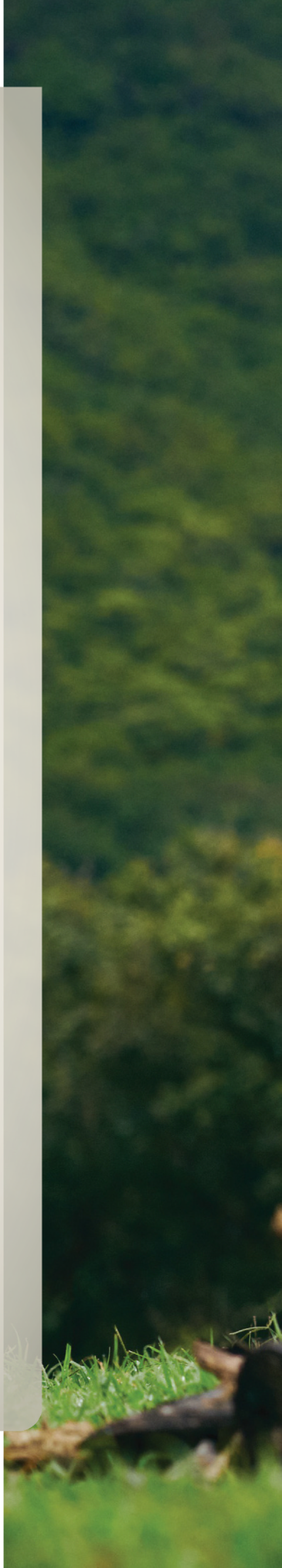
FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS, HE'S REACHED THE HEIGHTS OF SUCCESS—AND DISCOVERED TRUE HAPPINESS AS A HUSBAND AND DAD. THE *JUNGLE CRUISE* STAR REFLECTS ON HIS 'BLESSED' LIFE AND FINDING STRENGTH THROUGH TOUGH TIMES

By **JULIE JORDAN**

★★★

PLUS 99 MORE REASONS, FROM TRADITIONS (BASEBALL) TO TREATS (ICE CREAM) TO TRAVEL (VACCINATION VACATIONS). WELCOME BACK, USA. WE MISSED YOU!

Photographs by **PETER YANG**



Inspiring Journey
"I don't take things like this for granted," the superstar (photographed in March in Hawaii) says of earning the top spot on this year's list. "They always have that unique ability to kind of sit me down in a great way."

Whenever Dwayne Johnson visits his home state of Hawaii, he always returns to the small apartment building where he spent several of his childhood years with his mom, Ata.

"I drive by it, just park and kind of look," says the actor, 49. With his dad, Rocky, working as a pro wrestler on the mainland, "we were living paycheck to paycheck. We couldn't afford to pay the rent, $180 a week, and eventually we were kicked off the island." Today the actor's unconventional journey to Hollywood—including troubled teenage years and squashed dreams of becoming a professional football player before his breakthrough wrestling as the Rock in the WWE—has led him to become one of the highest-paid actors in the world. He also runs a growing business empire, including his Seven Bucks production company (which he leads with his ex-wife Dany Garcia, 52), Teremana tequila, Zoa energy drink and a partnership with Under Armour. Any venture "just has to align with my personal beliefs," he says. "What's most important is if I feel like the people will enjoy it and they're going to get some benefit out of it."

The superstar's new movie *Jungle Cruise,* inspired by the iconic Disney ride, will debut in theaters and on Disney+ Premier on July 30. Johnson, who costars with Emily Blunt, hopes families will leave theaters feeling "one of life's greatest anchors,

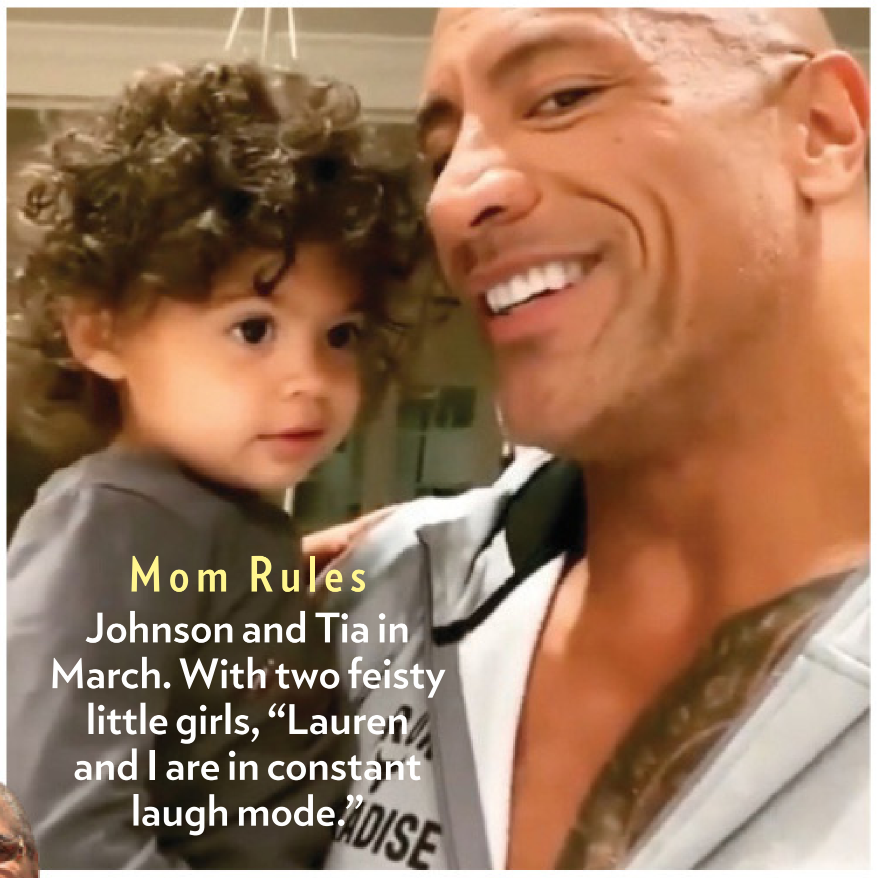
GROOMER: JOANNA PENSINGER FORD/THE WALL GROUP; STYLIST: ILARIA URBINATI/THE WALL GROUP; PROP STYLIST: MARINA TOLENTINO/ROAM RENTALS; ISLAND PRODUCTION: FX GROUP HAWAII; MAINLAND PRODUCTION: SMITH AND UNION; (PREVIOUS SPREAD) HENLEY: BILLY REID; PANTS: TODD SNYDER; WATCH: PANERAI; CHAIN: DAVID YURMAN; BOOTS: WOLVERINE; (THIS SPREAD) T-SHIRT: J BRAND; PANTS: AG; BOOTS: BLUNDSTONE

THE LOVES OF HIS LIFE

Happy Husband
Marrying Hashian in Hawaii in 2019 "was one of the greatest days of my life," Johnson says. "And Lauren says it's hers. That's what you want."

Doting Dad
"We have these great conversations that end with me saying something like, 'Okay, just remember who loves you more. Daddy,' " jokes Johnson (with Jasmine in 2018).

Girl Power
"Her work ethic has been phenomenal," the actor says of daughter Simone (in 2016), who joined the WWE. "I'm proud of her."



Mom Rules
Johnson and Tia in March. With two feisty little girls, "Lauren and I are in constant laugh mode."

Family Bond
"I wish that I had one more shot just to say thank you for everything," the actor says of his late dad, Rocky (with his mom, Ata, in 2015).

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: COURTESY DWAYNE JOHNSON(2); MICHAEL TRAN/FILMMAGIC; ALBERTO RODRIGUEZ/NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY IMAGES; HIRAM GARCIA

which is gratitude itself." He feels it himself more than ever: Married to his longtime love Lauren Hashian, 36, since 2019, the actor is a devoted dad to their daughters Jasmine, 5, and Tia, 3, as well as his daughter Simone, 19, with Garcia. And he insists he will never take his blessings for granted. "The most important things are right in front of me," Johnson adds. "I am in constant thank-you mode."

★★★

How does it feel to be the No. 1 reason to love America?
It feels great. I've been a lucky guy over the years to have the career that I've been blessed enough to have. And things like this, I'm always appreciative. We're here in Hawaii, where I did a lot of my growing up.... I was just Dwayne Johnson, the kid who's having a hard time going to school making his classes. I never expected in my wildest of wild dreams that I would ever be in a position to be on the cover of *People* and certainly not with this kind of title.

> 'Life moves fast. You have to pause and take care of yourself'

When you think back to your journey, were there ever times you felt underestimated or discriminated against?
[I] was just surrounded by all this struggle. It took me a while, but eventually I sat down and got my talking-to and understood the opportunities that were in front of me. And I did my best to turn things around. When I wasn't on this island, I was usually primarily in the South. And at that time growing up, you run into discrimination. You run into discrimination at the workplace. But I've

always been of the mindset that I can't change that, and I can't change the way I look. I was born with this color and who I am and where I'm from. So the best thing that I could do is control the controllables, put in the work with my own two hands, and if someone then continues to choose to discriminate against me, well, that's on them.

Your dad [former WWE pro Rocky Johnson] died from a heart attack last year. What's the first thing that comes to your mind now when you think of him?

I wish I had another shot to say goodbye. He died instantly—fast and unexpectedly. And I do my best to try to remember the good stuff; I think that's important. The complicated stuff that we went through as a father and son, that's my song that I got to dance to. And I will continue to work on that.

You've talked about dealing with depression over the years. Why was it important for you to be so open?

The first time, I was 18 years old, and I had no idea what depression was. Back then it was called "Get off the couch, get your s--- together, and change what's happening here." I was an only child, and I was always a better listener than I was a communicator in terms of sharing my feelings. The most important thing obviously is communicating and realizing that asking for help is actually the most powerful thing you can do, and it's not a weakness. Men especially fall into this trap of being really averse to vulnerability. But the truth is, you have to, hopefully over time, learn to embrace that. It's all part of life.

***Young Rock*, the NBC show based on your life, shows you as a presidential candidate in the future. Any further thoughts on actually running?**

Truth is, just being asked that question is such a humbling honor for me every time. I love our country to my core, and I'm endlessly grateful for the opportunities I've had here as a half-Black, half-Samoan kid being able to work my ass off knowing tenacity opens doors. In a lot of ways, I'm indebted to our great country for it. And let me be clear: I'm not a politician, nor did I ever have political passions, and quite frankly I'm not sure I even have the patience or resignation to deal with the B.S. that comes with politics and politicians, but when 46

A MOGUL'S GROWING EMPIRE

Movies

"We were just belly-laughing every day," Johnson says of *Jungle Cruise* costar Emily Blunt. "She's a tough chick too, which I love."

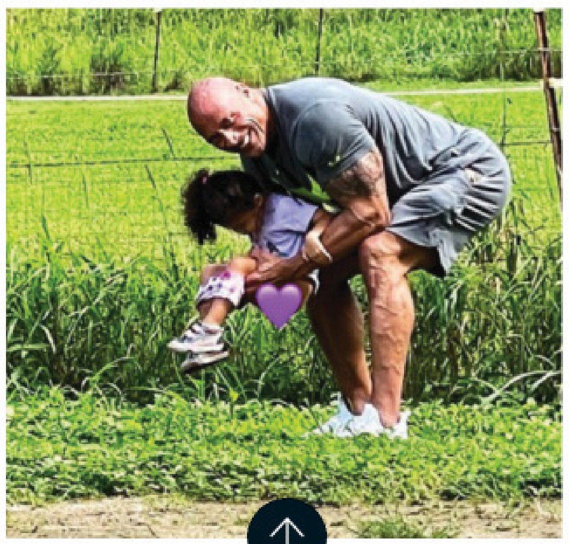
Television

Just renewed for a second season, NBC's hit comedy *Young Rock* chronicles Johnson's life at three different ages.

Tequila

In 2020 Johnson launched his Teremana tequila, which quickly broke records as one of the fastest-growing celebrity spirits.

★ DWAYNE ON MEMORABLE INSTAGRAM MOMENTS ★



Potty Break

"When babies got to go, they got to go. Tia didn't want to touch the ground because it was 'lava.' Then she peed all over my shoes."

Little Man

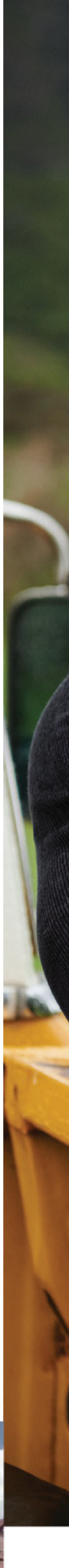
Kevin Hart imitated a 1994 photo of Johnson. "Who doesn't love my chocolate biscuit dressing up like me?"

Tea Party

"You have no say in what kind of tea you drink or cup you use. It's good to sit and watch Jasmine tell me how it's all going to go down."

Honoring His Roots

In Hawaii this year. "Singing with my mom at my grandparents' grave was very special. I'll always hold that one close to my heart."



'It's taken me years to be comfortable in who I am'

percent of Americans [in a recent poll] say they're in favor of me becoming President, that forces me to humbly and respectfully stand up, listen and learn.

Now you're bringing Disney's *Jungle Cruise* to the big screen. What did you enjoy most about making it?

No. 1 was bringing to life this incredible, American, iconic ride that was the dream of Walt Disney. Almost every component of this movie has a real magic to it, a real *mana* [spiritual energy, in Polynesian cultures]. Fans are going to enjoy Emily Blunt and the rest of the actors, and then there's the big, brown, bald, tattooed guy who just goes in and ruins every shot.

Scan this QR code to watch *People Cover Story: Dwayne Johnson* on PeopleTV.

Looking back, what was the last year like for you and your family during the pandemic?

It was a shakeup for us. I did this weird thing every day where I still got up and got dressed like I was getting ready to go someplace. I mean, shoes and all. That helped me psychologically. On a relationship and marriage standpoint, you realize you have to really be attentive to your reactions and responses, because your patience capacity starts to compress.

Did you discover anything about yourself?

I learned to have better patience. I would marvel at Lauren. We would conduct [at-home school] classes; she would be the teacher, and I sat there crisscross-applesauce with my daughters, and within five minutes I was like, "God, I am so tired." And my wife was going and going and going. I love the ease of being in our relationship now, I think going on 13, 14 years—she's going to kill me that I don't know the exact number. But there's a comfort. We may argue, but truly within 10 minutes we pull ourselves out of it and find some humor in the things that we just said. Mainly the things that I just said.

How do you stay positive when times are tough?

I try and keep the things that we've gone through in the past in the forefront of my mind. When my entire family got COVID, that was tough. But the fact that I had a chance to spend that much time with my baby girls and Lauren and my mom—we locked her down with us—was a blessing. We tried to find our silver linings every day.

What's the most important thing you've learned about raising daughters?

Just be there. You can be wired, as a lot of fathers are, to fix things. Just having an expanded capacity to listen and be more tender and gentle really gave me that ability to solve whatever the issue is, but *with* them compared to *for* them. Jazzy and Tia are tornadoes and very passionate about how they feel. Lauren and I like raising them in an environment and a culture where there are no limits to life. You can do anything you want, and you can achieve anything you want. However, I need you to be flexible with how we get there.

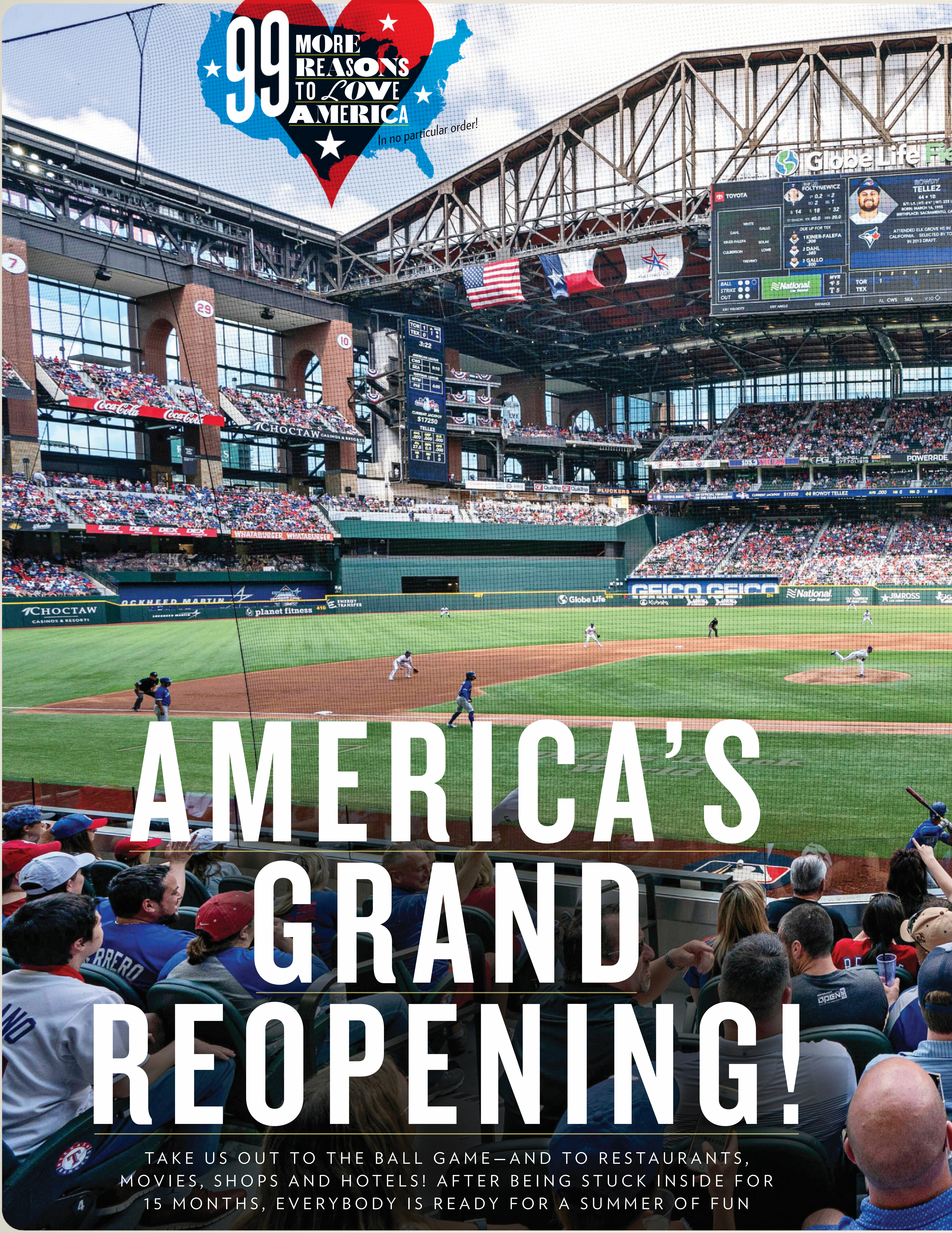
So how would you sum up your life now?

[*Pauses*] I just had to compose myself for a second. I know I sound like a broken record, but I'm a lucky guy to be in the position I'm in. Around every corner, if there's something that I can do to create an opportunity for somebody to work, take care of their own family, live their dream—that's the kind of stuff that matters. ●

JACKET: LEVI'S; T-SHIRT: J BRAND; WATCH: IWC; CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: COURTESY DWAYNE JOHNSON; HIRAM GARCIA; MARK TAYLOR/NBC; FRANK MASI/DISNEY; COURTESY DWAYNE JOHNSON(2)

99 MORE REASONS TO LOVE AMERICA

In no particular order!



AMERICA'S GRAND REOPENING!

TAKE US OUT TO THE BALL GAME—AND TO RESTAURANTS, MOVIES, SHOPS AND HOTELS! AFTER BEING STUCK INSIDE FOR 15 MONTHS, EVERYBODY IS READY FOR A SUMMER OF FUN

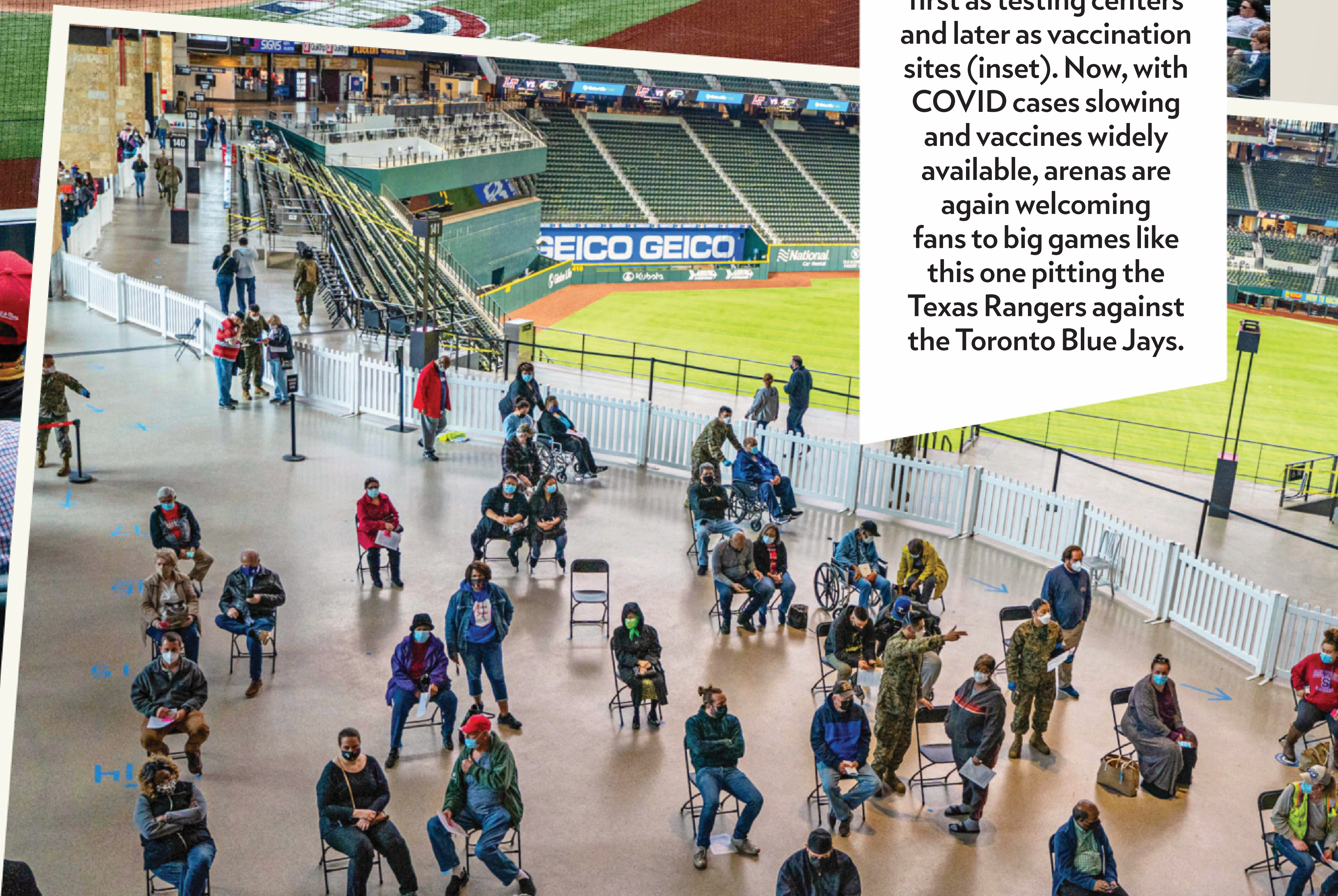
JEFFREY MCWHORTER/AP/SHUTTERSTOCK; INSET: LANCE CPL. WILLIAM REDDING/U.S. MARINE CORPS

2

OUR ABILITY TO PIVOT

★★★★★

Across the country restaurants are thriving again after months of offering only takeout and delivery, retailers are opening their doors after moving their businesses online, and ballparks like Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas (shown here), are back in business. As the pandemic raged, stadiums did their part to contribute to the fight against COVID, offering up their acreage—as well as their expertise in traffic flow and crowd control—to function first as testing centers and later as vaccination sites (inset). Now, with COVID cases slowing and vaccines widely available, arenas are again welcoming fans to big games like this one pitting the Texas Rangers against the Toronto Blue Jays.



3. Amanda Gorman

The 23-year-old Harvard grad and the first National Youth Poet Laureate exudes so much style and intelligence that she made the covers of both *Vogue* and *Time* after delivering her Inaugural poem "The Hill We Climb." Raised by a single mother, she overcame a speech disorder. "I spent a lifetime thinking about the power of language, and what it feels like when that power is withheld from you," she told *People* this year. She dreams of getting back on that Inaugural stage—as a newly elected President. Said Oprah Winfrey: "I have never been prouder to see another young woman rise."

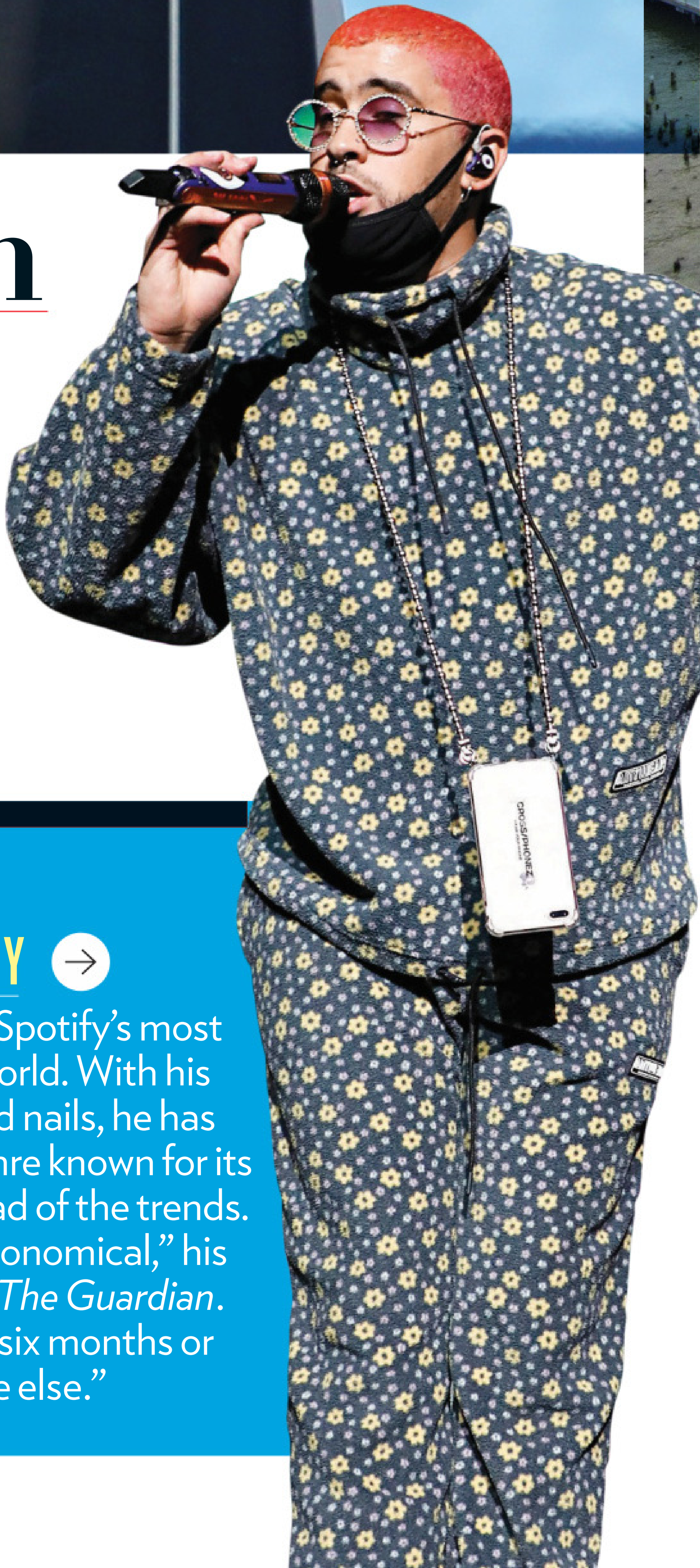
4. NPR's 50th Anniversary
Powered by "Founding Mothers" including Cokie Roberts and Nina Totenberg, the network became "the gold standard in journalism," says former *All Things Considered* host Michele Norris.

5. NIA DENNIS
A viral sensation with floor routines inspired by Beyoncé, the UCLA gymnast hopes for a career in entertainment. "The amount of opportunity…almost feels endless," she said.

6. Zillow Gone Wild Instagram
The addictive, carefully curated account spotlights the weirder side of real estate, like a toilet in the kitchen, a house shaped like a mushroom, or a mansion with a potato shed.

7 BAD BUNNY

The Puerto Rican rapper is Spotify's most streamed pop star in the world. With his colorful clothes and painted nails, he has redefined masculinity in a genre known for its machismo and is always ahead of the trends. "His IQ for music is just astronomical," his manager Noah Assad told *The Guardian*. "He sees things in music…six months or a year before anyone else."



8

LITTLE ISLAND PARK

Just as the pandemic began to wind down, this $260 million, 2.4-acre floating park rising from the Hudson River in New York City opened to the public. Funded entirely by Diane von Furstenberg and Barry Diller, it boasts a 687-seat amphitheater, a plaza with concessions and amazing views. "The paths have so many twists," Diller told *The Wall Street Journal*. "Every time you turn, you're surprised."

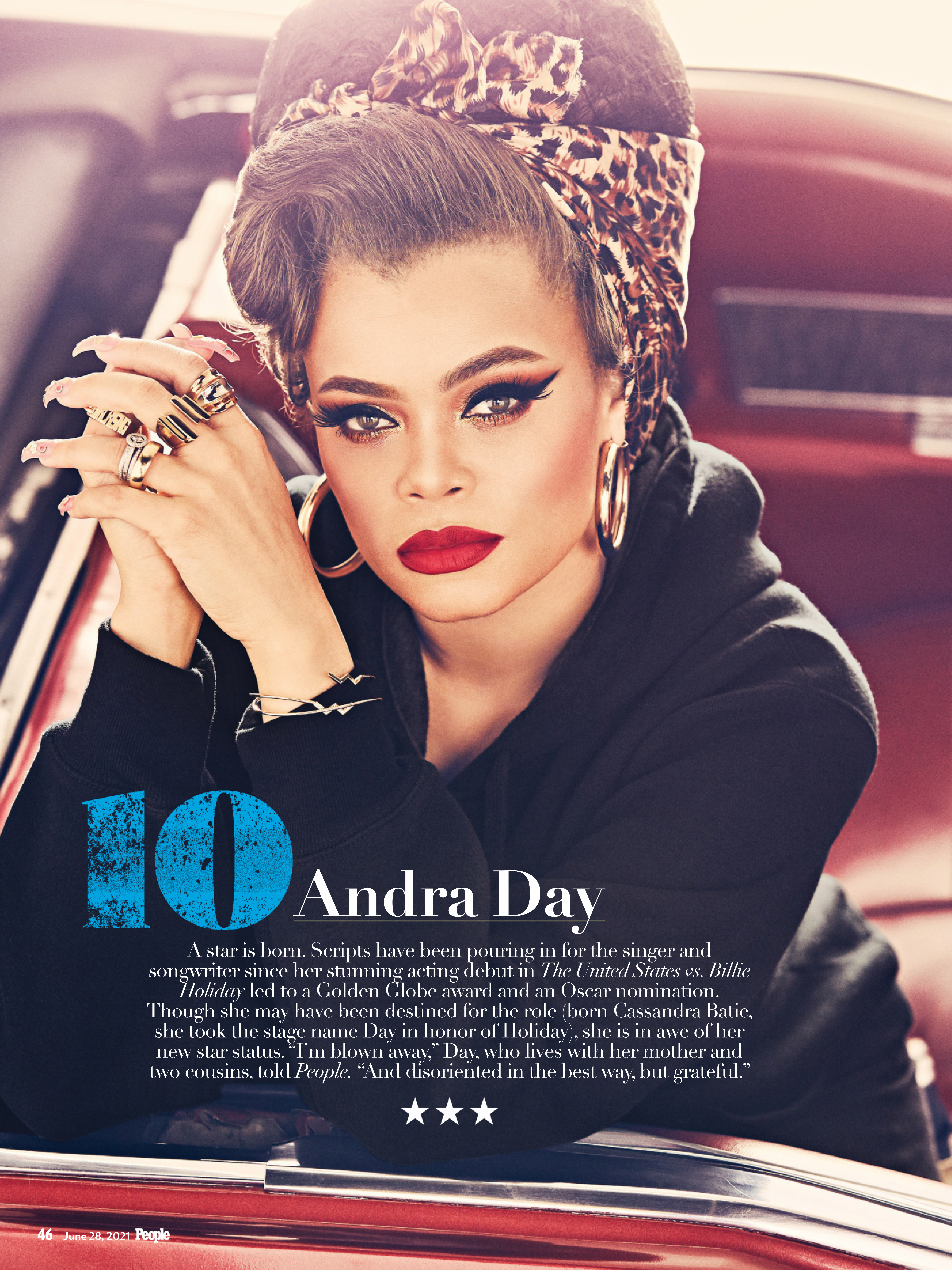
9 →

WAFFLES + MOCHI

A Netflix food and travel series for kids as seen through the eyes of two cheerful puppets who work in a grocery store owned by Michelle Obama? *The New Yorker* calls the show, from the Obamas' production company, "pure joy."

★ ★ ★

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES; TAYFUN COSKUN/ANADOLU AGENCY/GETTY IMAGES; ADAM ROSE/NETFLIX; TAYLOR HILL/GETTY IMAGES



10 Andra Day

A star is born. Scripts have been pouring in for the singer and songwriter since her stunning acting debut in *The United States vs. Billie Holiday* led to a Golden Globe award and an Oscar nomination. Though she may have been destined for the role (born Cassandra Batie, she took the stage name Day in honor of Holiday), she is in awe of her new star status. "I'm blown away," Day, who lives with her mother and two cousins, told *People.* "And disoriented in the best way, but grateful."

★★★

11. Crowd-sourced *Ratatouille the Musical*
Created during quarantine by TikTok users, the production sold $1 million in tickets with proceeds going to the Actors Fund.

12. Summer Camp
Kids can finally head back to these idyllic places for first kisses, dirty socks and finding their people.

13. Crispy Chicken Sandwich Wars
Seventeen months after Popeyes introduced its version, McDonald's added three varieties, and sales exploded. The more the merrier.

14. Tabitha Brown
The influencer amassed nearly 5 million TikTok followers with her vegan recipes, cooking hacks and motivational videos—and a role on *The Chi*.

15. Matthew McConaughey
Oscar, check. Bestselling memoir, check. What's next for the dad of three? Perhaps governor of Texas: "I have a new chapter for myself, personally in my life. I believe it is in some sort of leadership role," he told CNBC's Carl Quintanilla, admitting that he's mulling a run to lead his beloved home state. "I'm actually trying to look at the idea and give it serious consideration."

16. MTV's 40th Anniversary
A new era in television began on Aug. 1, 1981, when MTV aired the Buggles' hit "Video Killed the Radio Star." Videos later gave way to reality programming like the *Real World* and *Jersey Shore*.

17. The Woman Who Found an Apartment Behind Her Mirror
Samantha Hartsoe traced a draft to a mirror over her bathroom sink and discovered a hole leading to a three-bedroom apartment. Alas, it was uninhabitable, but she gave every tiny-apartment dweller hope.

18. *Rugrats* Reboot
Fans of the Nickelodeon show, which ran for 15 years beginning in 1991, can watch the new version with rugrats of their own.

19. Uncle Nearest Whiskey
Owned by a Black female entrepreneur and named after a formerly enslaved man who trained Jack Daniel, the Tennessee brand has been named one of the world's top 5 whiskeys.

20. Gender-Neutral Potato Head
Hasbro is following the science. Potatoes have both male and female flowers and are self-pollinating.

(RAY) RAMONA ROSALES/AUGUST; THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM SECOND ROW TOP LEFT: GETTY IMAGES; SAMANTHA HARTSOE/TIKTOK; MCDONALD'S; NICKELODEON; HASBRO; COURTESY UNCLE NEAREST PREMIUM WHISKEY; BRENDAN MALONEY/USA TODAY SPORTS

21
COVID-19 VACCINES

Before 2020, the fastest vaccine ever produced was for mumps—and that took four years. Yet researchers developed immunizations against COVID in less than a year. One time-saving step: mass-producing the shots before clinical trials were completed. "The speed was not at all at the sacrifice of safety," Dr. Anthony Fauci told ABC's George Stephanopoulos. "The speed was the reflection of extraordinary advances in the science of vaccine platform technology."

22
BARBIE'S COMEBACK

The iconic toy spent a few years in cultural exile because of her impossible-to-attain figure, but the brand expanded its line to be more inclusive—adding dolls of Helen Keller and fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad, among others—and now Margot Robbie is starring as Barbie in a movie she's also producing; Greta Gerwig signed on to direct.

23

Erin & Ben Napier

HGTV's *Home Town* hosts made *Fortune*'s 2021 list of World's 50 Greatest Leaders for revitalizing Laurel, Miss., one house at a time. "If no one tells the story of Laurel, then no one hears the story," said Erin, who gave birth to the couple's second child in May, the same month they launched their new show *Home Town Takeover,* in Wetumpka, Ala.

24. BO BURNHAM
Filled with humor and despair, his brilliant Netflix special *Inside*, filmed in isolation over the course of the pandemic, nails the struggles shared by many.

25. Clubhouse
The invitation-only social media app lets groups of people interact in real time—and, because it's audio-only, never get caught with their pants down.

26. Ghost Kitchens
These fully equipped kitchens that specialize in delivery and takeout and can be shared by restaurants to save money are revolutionizing the industry.

27. Yo-Yo Ma
After the famed cellist received his second dose of the COVID vaccine in Pittsfield, Mass., he broke out his cello and played for volunteers during his 15-minute wait time.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: NETFLIX; MATTEL, INC.; STEFANIE KEENAN/GETTY IMAGES; GETTY IMAGES; HGTV

28

The Photography of Gray Malin

Aerial views of remote locations and beautiful beaches are hallmarks of the L.A.-based travel photographer's pictures, and during the pandemic people scooped them up. "My work sits at the center of escapism and home decor—both of which were having a moment last year with everyone stuck at home," he says. (Malin was too, and he turned his focus to his own backyard, shooting a series on the Hollywood sign.) Now he's happy to be back on the road to places like Hawaii, where he took these pictures when the state reopened, and hopes his photos "reminded people of the vacation they cannot wait to take once they are able to travel again," he says.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ©GRAY MALIN, AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT GRAYMALIN.COM

29

Alan S. Kim

The 9-year-old star became an awards season darling when he cried during his acceptance speech at the Critics Choice Awards for Best Young Actor/Actress in *Minari* (inset). Afterward, he says, he celebrated with “a pizza party, and then we also got chicken.” He already has his next role lined up in *Latchkey Kids*, and luckily for him, he won’t have too much trouble memorizing his lines: “I just go to sleep, and then, when I wake up, I memorized them all,” he says. No wonder then that when he grows up he doesn’t want to do “anything else than being an actor.”

—ALE RUSSIAN

31. Jennifer Doudna
For her work in simplifying CRISPR genome editing—a technique that could lead to cures for diseases by altering DNA—the Berkeley, Calif., biochemist was awarded the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, along with France’s Emmanuelle Charpentier. “I’m proud of my gender,” she said. “I hope that this prize…is encouraging to other women who are in science.”

32. Chess
Thanks to the popularity of *The Queen’s Gambit,* the centuries-old game is experiencing a revival, notably among women.

33. Missouri Statehood Bicentennial
Happy 200th, Show Me State!

34. Fire Pits
Sales heated up when we all stayed at home and became determined to make use of outdoor space, even as temps dropped.

35. Santa Maria Valley
Hurt by the pandemic, this small California town, known for its beaches and wineries, got creative and paid tourists $100 to stay there last winter.

36. Darnella Frazier
She witnessed George Floyd’s murder and, at just 17, had the wisdom to videotape it—leading to the conviction of Derek Chauvin and sparking a global movement for racial justice.

(KIM) JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION/AP/SHUTTERSTOCK; (POSTER) A24

18+

WHAT IS AVAXHOME?

AVAXHOME -

the biggest Internet portal, providing you various content: brand new books, trending movies, fresh magazines, hot games, recent software, latest music releases.

Unlimited satisfaction one low price
Cheap constant access to piping hot media
Protect your downloadings from Big brother
Safer, than torrent-trackers

18 years of seamless operation and our users' satisfaction

All languages
Brand new content
One site

AVXLIVE.ICU

AvaxHome - Your End Place

We have everything for all of your needs. Just open https://avxlive.icu

30

THE 4TH OF JULY

Independence Day takes on new meaning as we celebrate freedom from COVID. To keep up the momentum, President Biden hopes more people will roll up their sleeves to reach his goal of 70 percent of adults at least partially vaccinated by July 4. Bring on the barbecues, fireworks—and hugs.

37

OPRAH WINFREY

Shortly before ending her talk show, in January 2011 she launched her network, which has brought acclaimed shows like *Queen Sugar* and *The Legacy of Black Wall Street*. And this year she demonstrated the art of the compassionate interview with can't-miss sit-downs with people like Prince Harry and Elliot Page that informed the world.

38. Siblings or Dating? Instagram
You have to guess from pictures posted, and your mind will be blown.

39. Tulsa's Gathering Place
The 100-acre riverfront public park, bursting with attractions, has made many lists of best places to visit in America. What's more, it's a beacon of inclusivity in a city known for its 1921 race massacre.

40. Hot Springs National Park 100th Anniversary
Known as the American Spa, the Arkansas territory became a national park in 1921 to preserve the 47 hot springs that come out of the Hot Springs Mountain.

41. OLIVIA RODRIGO
Another Disney star rises to the top. Rodrigo's raw, emotional music captures the feelings of a generation of fans who have made the 18-year-old the breakout singer of 2021.

42

SITTING BERNIE MEME

Vermont senator Bernie Sanders captured the imagination of the Internet when he was photographed sitting on a folding chair at President Biden's Inauguration, all bundled up. Immediately Sanders and his enormous mittens started popping up everywhere: on a bench next to Forrest Gump; alongside Deadpool (below); riding a New York City subway; on the moon. "I was just sitting there trying to keep warm," Sanders told Seth Meyers. But he quickly embraced the moment, selling meme merchandise that raised $1.8 million for charitable organizations in Vermont.

(JULY 4) GETTY IMAGES; (OPRAH) STEVE JENNINGS/GETTY IMAGES; (BERNIE MEME) FROM LEFT: TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX; BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; (RODRIGO) JMENTERTAINMENT/GETTY IMAGES

43

MIKAYLA HOLMGREN

She competed in the Miss Minnesota USA pageant, and now the inspiring 26-year-old model wants to be the first woman with Down syndrome to appear in the *Sports Illustrated* Swimsuit issue. "Just follow your dreams and then do things!" she told *People.*

44

BOWEN YANG

He's carved out a niche on *Saturday Night Live* playing characters who are original and queer and leave the audience wanting more, like the iceberg that sunk the *Titanic,* right. ("First of all, you came to where *I* live and you hit *me*!") He's going to be one of the greats.

45. THE SMITHSONIAN
The world's largest museum is celebrating its 175th anniversary with a new immersive experience titled "Futures" at the Arts and Industries Building.

46. Ford's Electric Pickup Truck
The rugged F-150 Lightning proves there is an electric vehicle for everyone.

47. The *Friends* Reunion
It finally happened, and it was spectacular.

48. Major Biden
The first shelter dog in the White House may have been involved in two minor biting incidents, but the German shepherd has received training to adjust to his new digs. You *can* teach a rescue dog new tricks.

(HOLMGREN) FADIL BERISHA (SMITHSONIAN) RON BLUNT/COURTESY SMITHSONIAN (YANG) WILL HEATH/NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY IMAGES

49

Ali Fedotowsky-Manno

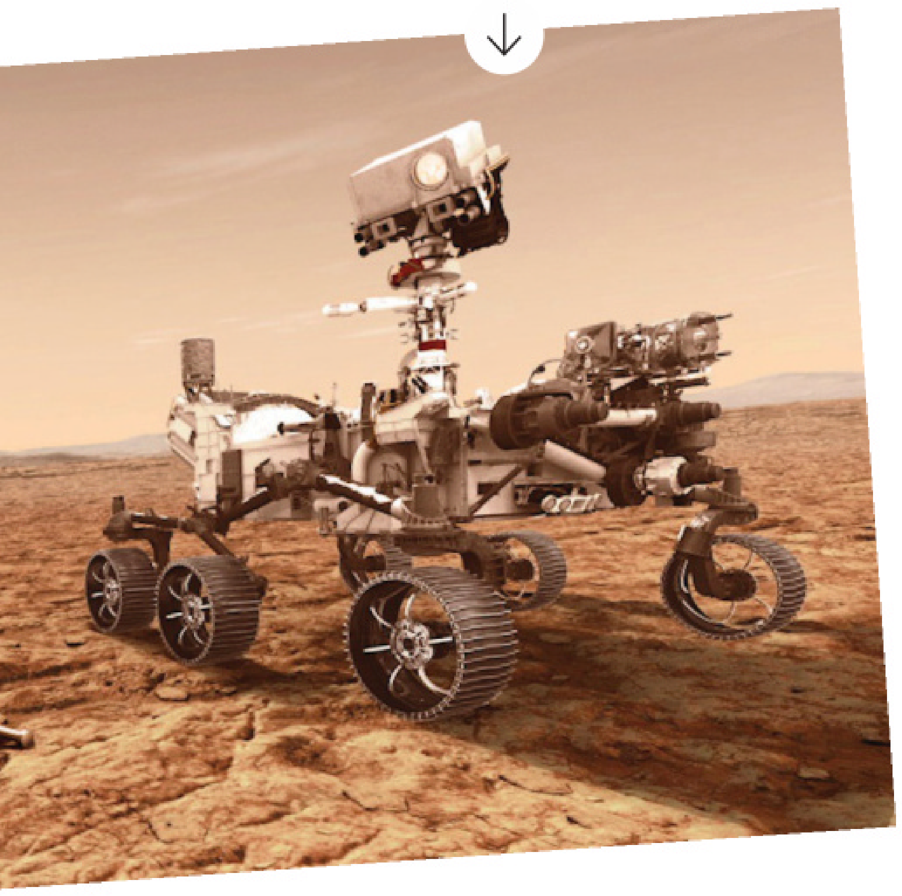
She didn't find lasting love as the Bachelorette (she married radio host Kevin Manno six years later), but Ali Fedotowsky-Manno has become a beacon of inspiration for the influencer set. For her 1 million Instagram followers, the mom to Molly, almost 5, and Riley, 3, skillfully integrates real life like her struggles with anemia ("Kevin jokes that I produce my own 24-hour reality show") with business partnerships with lifestyle brands. "I made more as an influencer than in any of my other jobs," she says proudly. Despite the downfalls—"People can pick you apart online"—"I feel connected with my followers. This could all go away tomorrow, so for now I'm as authentic as I can possibly be." —AILI NAHAS

"If you keep working hard, you'll get towards your dreams," says Lee, who started gymnastics at age 6.

55. THE PATINKINS
Actor Mandy Patinkin and his wife of 41 years, Kathryn Grody, became unlikely Instagram stars when their son Gideon began documenting his parents' lives in upstate New York during the pandemic—all the joy and all the bickering. The forced togetherness, Patinkin told *The New York Times*, has been "one of the true gifts of my life."

50 AMERICA'S MISSION TO MARS

NASA's *Perseverance* rover landed on Feb. 18 for a 687-day stay. So far it has found no signs of life but determined that wind and water have eroded some of the rocks, and it has released a device that can produce oxygen to prepare for human occupation and a helicopter to perform test flights on the planet.



51. Tiffany Haddish
Beating out four men, she was the first Black woman since Whoopie Goldberg to win a Grammy for a comedy album.

52. White Earth Nation
The Minnesota tribe doubled the minimum wage for tribal employees to $16 per hour despite COVID disruptions.

53. The Nomads of *Nomadland*
Houseless but not homeless, the real-life stars of the movie love the van life. "We have quite an eclectic group that come together and bond," Linda May told the *Los Angeles Times*.

54 OLYMPIC HOPEFUL SUNISA LEE

The St. Paul native, 18, hopes to make history in Tokyo as the first Hmong American Olympic gymnast. "It would mean the world for me to go to the Olympics," says Lee, who helped the U.S. team win gold at the 2019 world championships. "To be an inspiration to other Hmong people would mean a lot to me too."

—KAREN MIZOGUCHI

56. The First Gay Captain America
To mark the superhero's 80th anniversary, Marvel Comics is handing the mantle to an LGBTQ teen who "stands for the oppressed and the forgotten."

57. Guy Fieri
He inked a new three-year deal with the Food Network after helping raise $21.5 million for restaurant workers during the pandemic.

58. Kim Ng
She started as an intern with the Chicago White Sox and worked her way up. Now she's the new general manager of the Miami Marlins—and the first woman to run a major league baseball team.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES; TAYFUN COSKUN/ANADOLU AGENCY/GETTY IMAGES; ADAM ROSE/NETFLIX; TAYLOR HILL/GETTY IMAGES

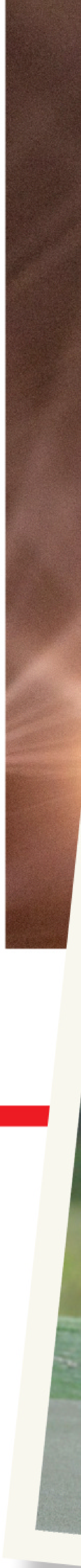
IMPROVES SKIN
3X
BETTER*
Infused with prestige skin care ingredient Retinol, Olay transforms skin from dry and stressed to bright and smooth.
B3
+RETINOL
OLAY
CLEANSING & RENEWING
B3
+ RETINOL
NIGHTTIME BODY WASH
SCAN TO BUY
Hover phone camera over code
NO APP NEEDED
* vs. leading body wash
* after 14 days, based on clinical moisture retention data
OLAY
BODY CARE
FEARLESS IN MY SKIN

59
DOLLY PARTON

The music legend donated $1 million to help fund COVID vaccine research at Vanderbilt University—and sang about getting vaccinated to the tune of her hit song "Jolene" after a friend there, Dr. Naji Abumrad, gave her the shot.

60. Fran Lebowitz
Her Netflix series *Pretend It's a City* put the curmudgeonly New Yorker back in the spotlight. Now 70, she doesn't use a computer but did some virtual events during the pandemic—and missed having a live audience. "People who are in show business play to the audience," she told *Billboard*. "I don't do that—I'm not that nice, I'm not that friendly."

61. Cameo
The celeb video message service thrived, with locked-down stars earning cash by connecting with fans.



62
Luis Elizondo

Once viewed as something discussed only by crackpots, UFOs have recently gone mainstream—and one of the people responsible is Luis Elizondo. From 2010 to 2017 he served as director for the Pentagon's secretive Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program. "The amount of stigma and taboo that was placed on UFOs for so long has really paralyzed the conversation," says Elizondo, who investigated sightings by fighter pilots and other military personnel. "But these things are real. We don't know what they are yet, but they are real, so we should probably take them seriously." —JOHNNY DODD

(ELIZONDO) ROGER KISBY/REDUX

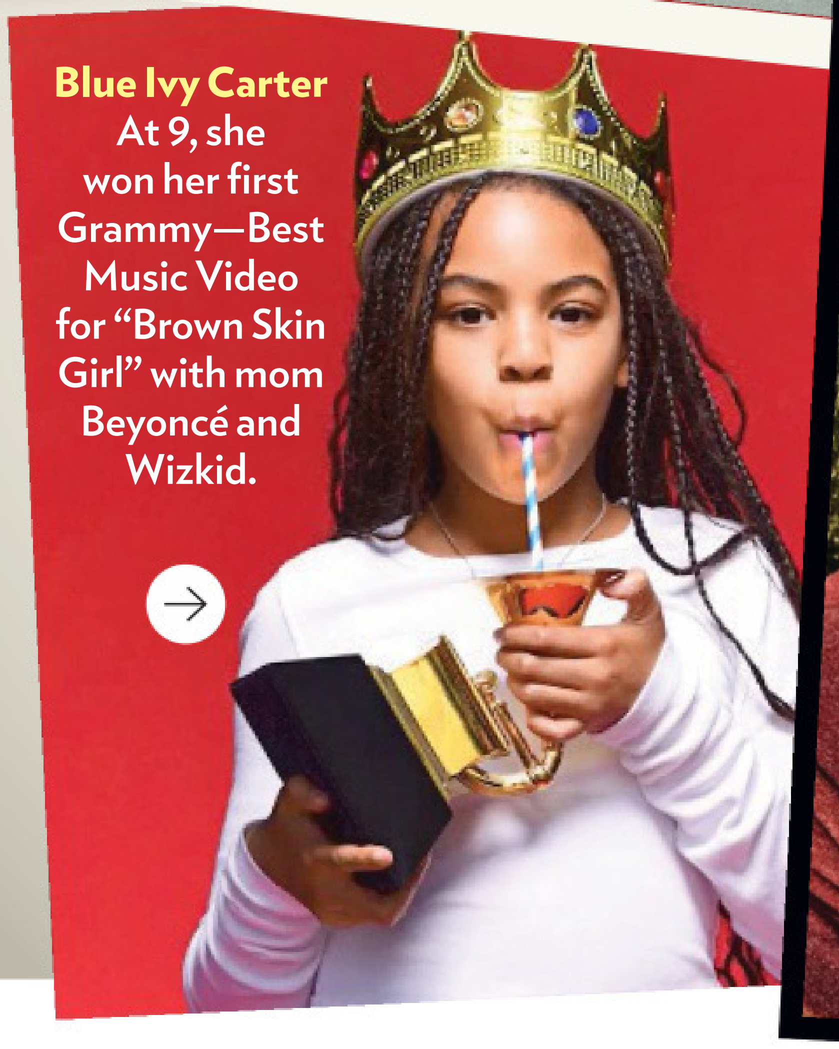
63

CELEBRITY MINI-MES

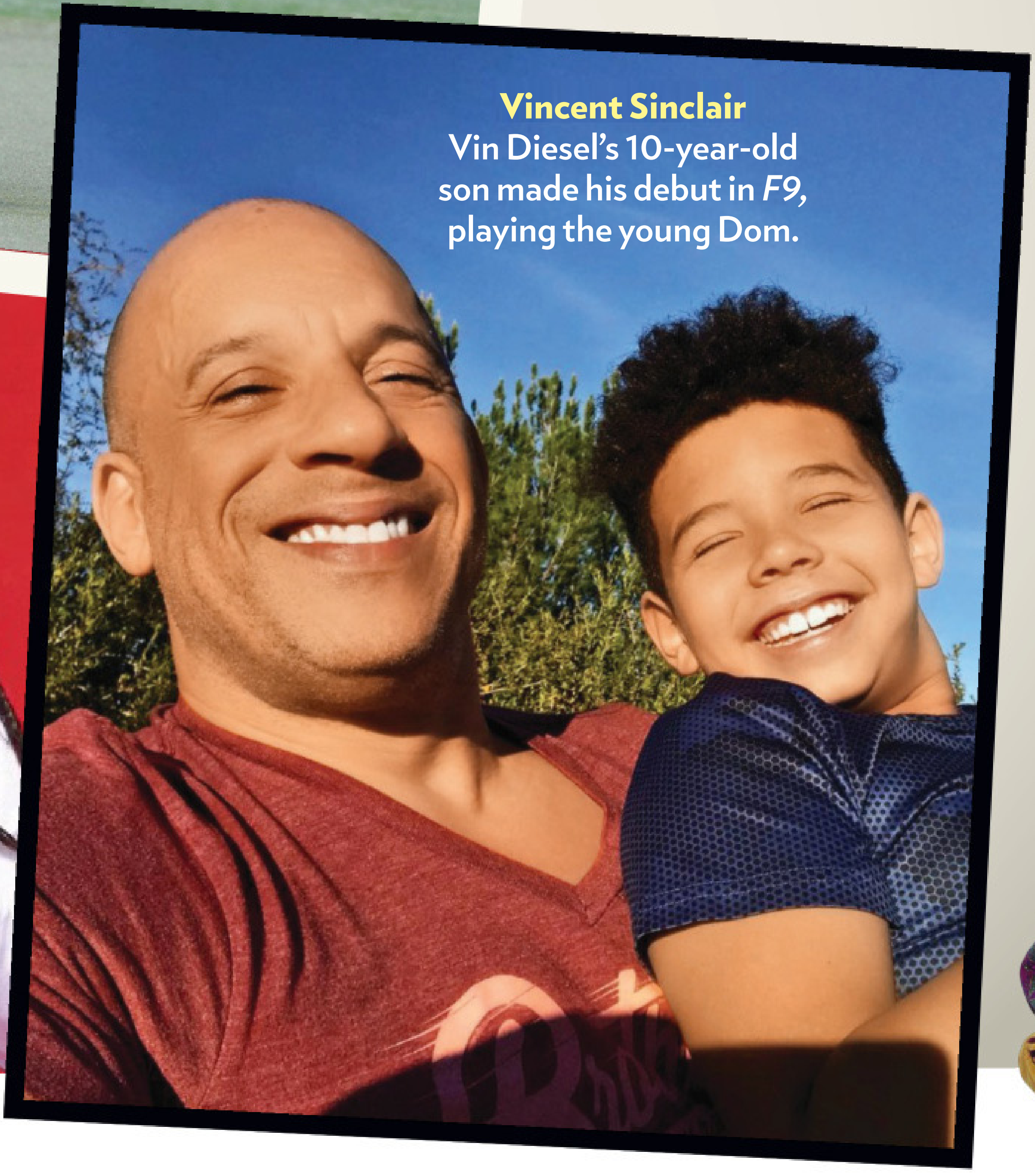
These kids have talent! They held their own—and then some—performing alongside their famous parents.

Willow Sage Hart
Pink's daughter is a singer and an acrobat! Willow, 10, performed "Cover Me in Sunshine" with her mom at the 2021 Billboard Music Awards.

Charlie Woods
The 11-year-old and his dad, Tiger, came in seventh in the PNC championship father-son challenge last December.



Blue Ivy Carter
At 9, she won her first Grammy—Best Music Video for "Brown Skin Girl" with mom Beyoncé and Wizkid.



Vincent Sinclair
Vin Diesel's 10-year-old son made his debut in *F9*, playing the young Dom.

(PINK)CHISTOPHER POLK/NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY IMAGES; (WOODS) PHELAN M EBENHACK/AP/SHUTTERSTOCK; (APFEL) BRAD BARKET/GETTY IMAGES

64. Kane Brown
His positive attitude has helped make him a country music star. The secret to his award-winning hit "Worldwide Beautiful"? "It was the message of being able to come together even though we are different," he told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

65. Krispy Kreme
Show your vaccination card and get a free donut! The brand has given away more than 1.5 million.

66. Empire State Building
It hasn't been the tallest since 1972, but it's still arguably the world's most famous; this year the N.Y.C. skyscraper turned 90.

67. IRIS APFEL
The style icon, who turns 100 in August, is as cool now as ever. Known for her oversize glasses, chunky jewelry and bright colors, she has said, "I never think about my age. Maybe that's the ticket."

68 NEIGHBORHOODS

Communities mattered more than ever this year, and *In the Heights* is Lin-Manuel Miranda's love letter to his in Washington Heights. "It's an insanely picturesque point in Manhattan," he says. "I love it so much." Below, the movie's stars share their favorite parts of N.Y.C.

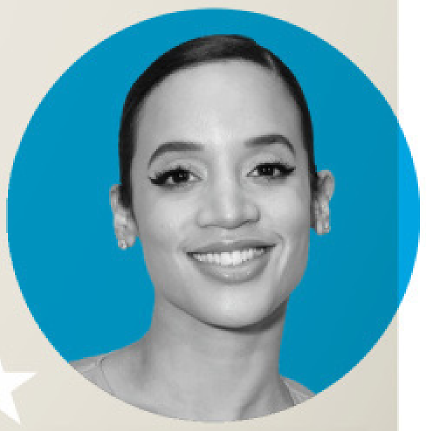
Lin-Manuel Miranda
"I still live in Washington Heights with my wife, who also grew up there."

Daphne Rubin-Vega
"My favorite neighborhood spot is Milanes restaurant in Chelsea."

Stephanie Beatriz
"I'm always discovering new things to do in Prospect Park and corners I haven't seen before."

Jimmy Smits
"My hood is Brooklyn. One of my favorite things is to see the Manhattan skyline over the Brooklyn Bridge."

Olga Merediz
"My neighborhood has Broadway and isn't far from Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. Not too shabby."



Dascha Polanco
"My favorite neighborhoods are Flatbush and Sunset Park. I like to walk around and people-watch."

69. One World Observatory
As the 20th anniversary of 9/11 approaches, the highest spot in New York City, atop One World Trade Center (aka the Freedom Tower), is a reminder of how the United States stands strong.

70. Kai Shappley
The brave 10-year-old trans activist testified before the Texas Senate against transphobic bills.

71. LEVAIN COOKIES
Each heavenly treat from the famous bakery has more calories than a Quarter Pounder—but every bite is worth the Quarantine 15.

72. Dancing Robots
To show off their engineering prowess, Boston Dynamics gave their robots rhythm. The results went viral, with 31 million views on YouTube.

73. Leslie Jordan
Building on his social media fame, the diminutive actor released a bestselling memoir and a gospel album this year.

74 EUGENE GOODMAN

The Capitol Police officer was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for diverting rioters from the United States Senate chamber on Jan. 6.

75. Etsy
Did you go there for masks? Or perhaps candles or crocheted animals? When quarantined craftspeople connected with home shoppers, this online marketplace for handmade items doubled its revenue in 2020.

76. Jean Smart
Her career resurgence at 69 in *Mare of Easttown* and *Hacks* has been labeled a "Jeanaissance" by Twitter.

77. Shonda Rhimes
Netflix made a smart investment paying the showrunner $150 million to make hits. Her first, *Bridgerton,* is the streaming service's most-watched show and has already been renewed for three more seasons.

78

NEW POSTAL TRUCKS

The U.S. Postal Service is doing something right. Its new mail truck—which will hit the road in 2023—has innovative safety features as well as more cargo space and can be electric- or gas-powered.

79

Jessica Long

This year's most inspiring Super Bowl ad was Toyota's tribute to 13-time Paralympic champion swimmer Jessica Long, who was born without fibular bones and had her legs amputated at 18 months. Born to teen parents in Russia, she was adopted at 13 months and raised in Baltimore—and is not shy on the global stage. "Everyone has something that they are insecure about, and I think mine happens to be on display for everyone to see," Long, 29, told ESPN. She's now preparing for the Tokyo Games.

80

SEX AND THE CITY REBOOT

Filming began this month for HBO Max's *And Just Like That,* though a premiere date has not been set. All original cast members except Kim Cattrall are slated to return.

(IN THE HEIGHTS) CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MACALL POLAY/WARNER BROS. PICTURES; DIA DIPASUPIL/WIREIMAGE; MORGAN LIEBERMAN/GETTY IMAGES; STEVEN FERDMAN/GETTY IMAGES; FRAZER HARRISON/WIREIMAGE; WALTER MCBRIDE/WIREIMAGE; SCOTT KIRKLAND/FX/PICTUREGROUP/SHUTTERSTOCK; (COOKIES) COURTESY LEVAIN BAKERY; (CROCHET ELEPHANT) QUANTUMCROCHET; (GOODMAN) ASHLEY GILBERTSON/VII/REDUX; (LONG) CATHERINE IVILL/GETTY IMAGES; (PARKER) JAMES DEVANEY/WIREIMAGE

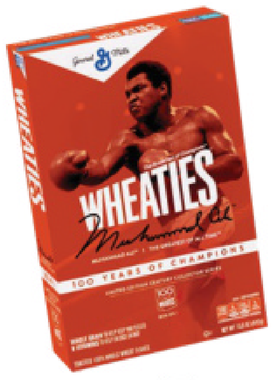
THESE BRANDS ARE TURNING 100 THIS YEAR!

81. Cheez-It Original tagline: "A Baked Rarebit."

82. Baby Ruth Named after Grover Cleveland's daughter Ruth, not Babe Ruth.

83. Betty Crocker When the Washburn Crosby flour milling company received baking questions from customers, they made up the name Betty Crocker to personalize the answers.

84. Edy's Pie Invented after a boy in a store couldn't decide whether to spend his money on chocolate or ice cream.



85. Wheaties The breakfast of champs was created when a wheat-bran mixture accidentally spilled onto a hot stove.

86. White Castle The original location, in Wichita, Kans., was started with $700.

87. Wise Potato Chips Deli owner Earl Wise made potato chips as a way to use excess potatoes.

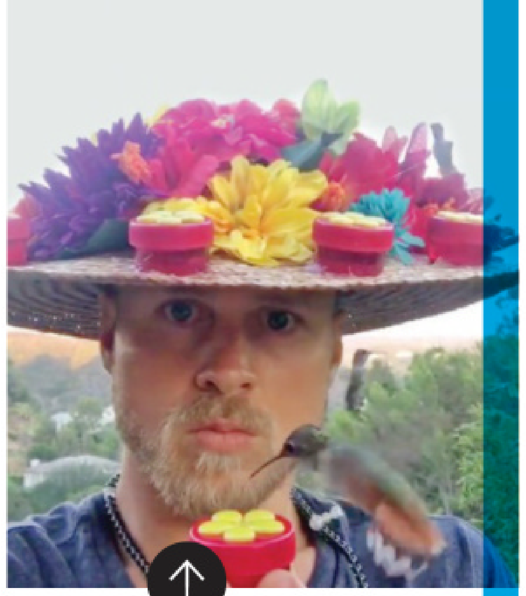
88. Wonder Bread One of the country's first presliced breads.

89 IMMERSIVE VAN GOGH EXHIBIT

More than 500,000 tickets have been sold for the digital extravaganza (playing in 40 cities), which allows visitors to virtually step inside the works of the legendary Postimpressionist.

90 CELEBRITY GAME SHOW HOSTS

Like talk shows before them, game shows are attracting top talent like Elizabeth Banks (*Press Your Luck*), Anthony Anderson (*To Tell the Truth*) and Leah Remini (our own *People Puzzler*).



91.

Spencer Pratt's Hummingbirds

The hundreds of hummingbirds that the "obsessed" former *Hills* star feeds from his L.A. terrace may be the most magical thing on Instagram.

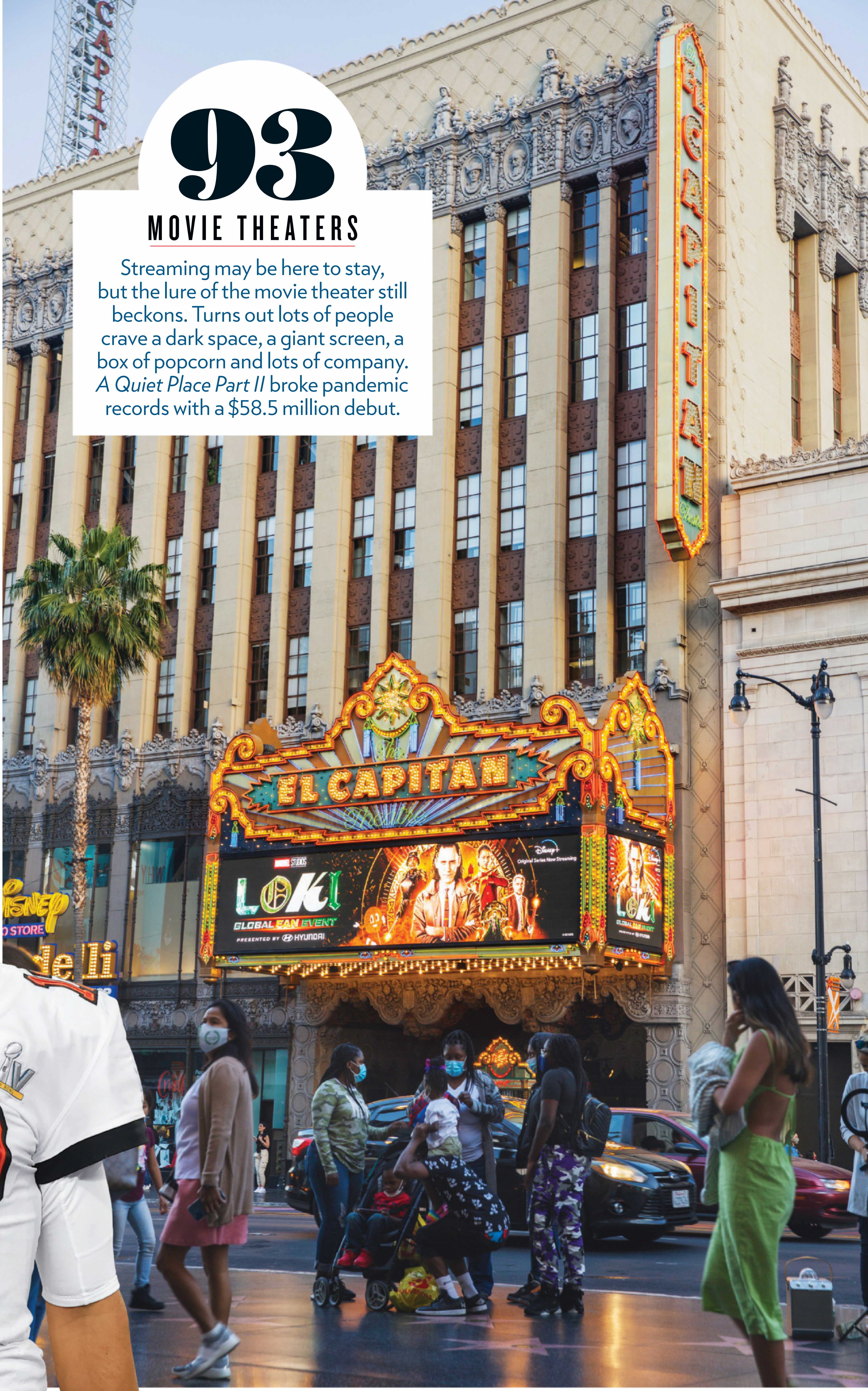
92. Tom Brady

In his first year with Tampa Bay, the quarterback won his seventh Super Bowl—a record—and, at 43, became the oldest player to be named Super Bowl MVP. Respect!

93

MOVIE THEATERS

Streaming may be here to stay, but the lure of the movie theater still beckons. Turns out lots of people crave a dark space, a giant screen, a box of popcorn and lots of company. *A Quiet Place Part II* broke pandemic records with a $58.5 million debut.



(EDY'S PIE) NESTLE; (VAN GOGH) MICHAEL BROSILOW; (BANKS) ERIC MCCANDLESS/ABC(2); (EL CAPITAN THEATER) BECKY SAPP; (BRADY) MIKE EHRMANN/GETTY IMAGES

94

Dionne Warwick

Her voice made her a music legend, but it was her tweets (telling The Weeknd his name was misspelled, for example) that made Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey take note. "Jack said, 'I should put you on staff,'" says Warwick, 80. "I said, 'Well, let's talk about some kind of compensation here.'" Her direct approach—she asked Chance The Rapper: "If you are very obviously a rapper, why did you put it in your stage name?"—resulted in an upcoming collaboration. "Hopefully by August you'll be hearing from Chance The Rapper and Dionne the Singer," she says. Meanwhile she's steering social media in a more positive direction. "Don't say to anyone what you don't want said to you," she says. "Let's put a little laughter into it."

—LIZ McNEIL

"I've spent half my life on the road," says Warwick (in 2019 and, inset, on Twitter). "It's now time for me to start enjoying me."

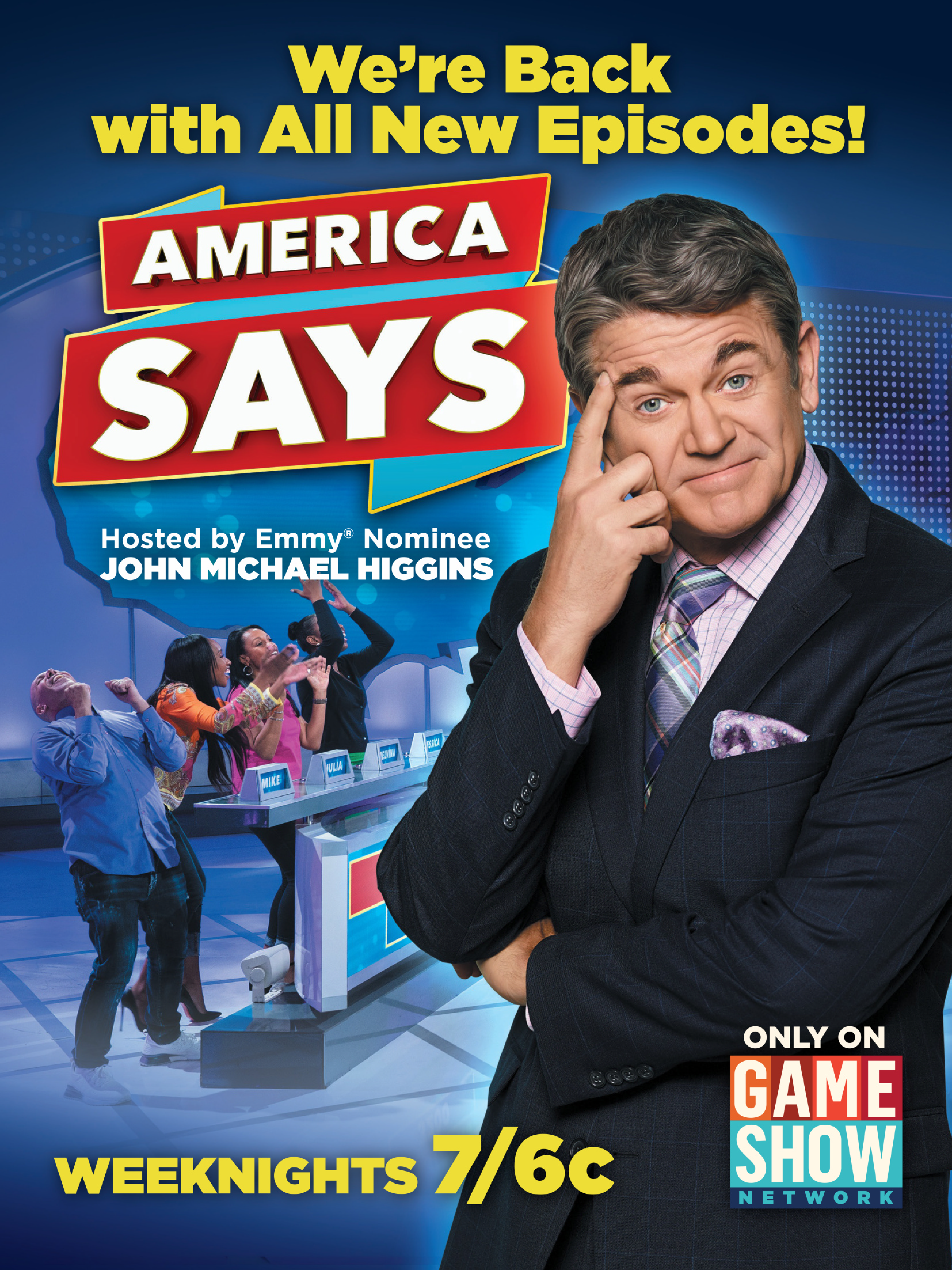
Dionne's Rules

ON HONESTY:
"I always say whatever flops out of my mouth."

ON HER TWITTER FANS:
"I let them know immediately I'm going to ask questions, and I expect answers."

ON TWITTER:
"I call it Twote-ing. Not twittering. T-W-O-T-E. It has a softer sound. As in 'I twoted yesterday.'"

DAVID VANCE


We're Back
with All New Episodes!
AMERICA
SAYS
Hosted by Emmy® Nominee
JOHN MICHAEL HIGGINS
ONLY ON
GAME
SHOW
NETWORK
WEEKNIGHTS 7/6c

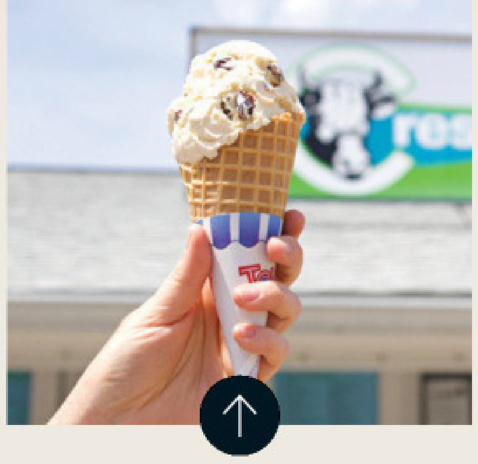
WE HAVE THE BEST ICE-CREAM SHOPS

96

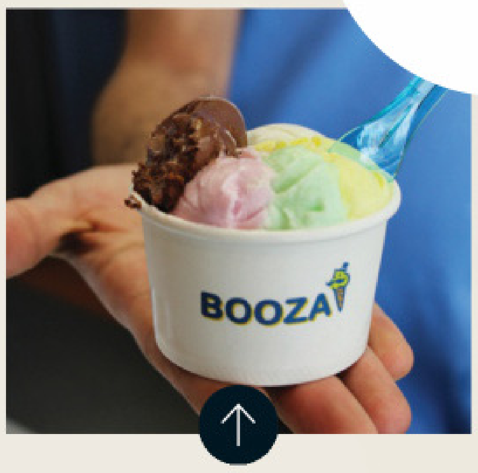
When it comes to frozen desserts, these spots are the cream of the crop!

Saffron & Rose
In L.A., try Persian-style ice cream in flavors like mango or faloodeh (rose water with rice noodles).

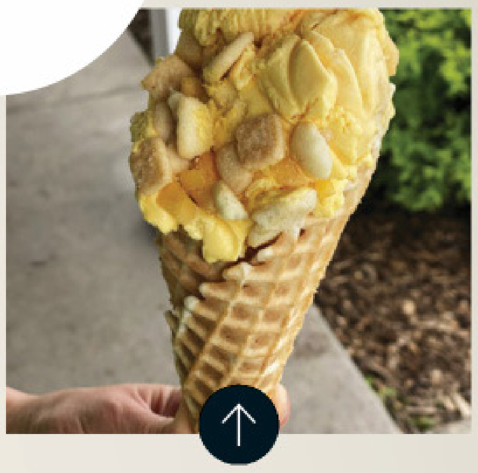
Ice Cream Jubilee
Small-batch blends—like Thai Iced Tea—are the stars at this popular Washington, D.C., spot.



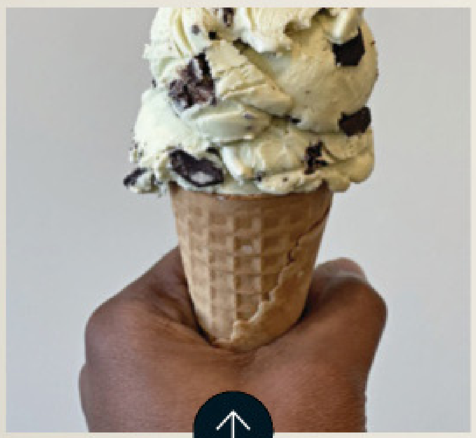
Crescent Ridge
In Sharon, Mass., this local favorite uses fresh milk from small, family-owned farms nearby.



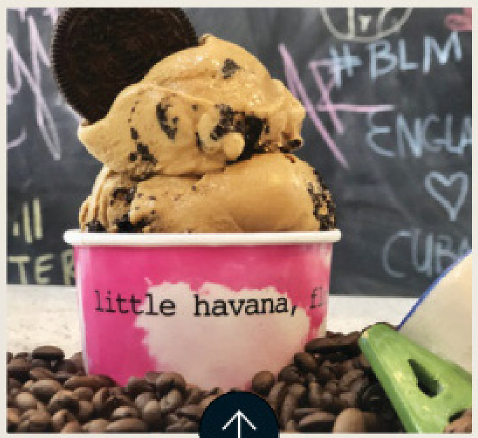
Booza
Experience the cool and delightfully stretchy texture of the Arabic-style treat in Houston.



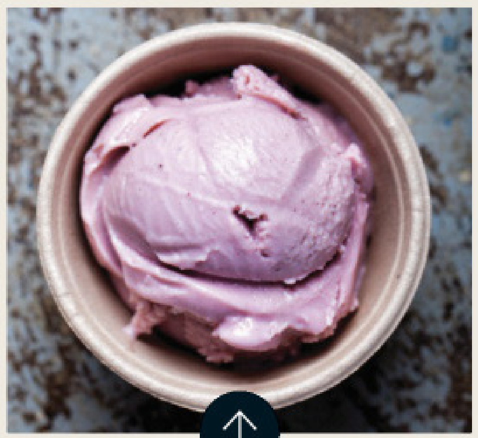
Kelley Country Creamery
Near Fond du Lac, Wis., this dairy has 500-plus flavors, like peach pie.



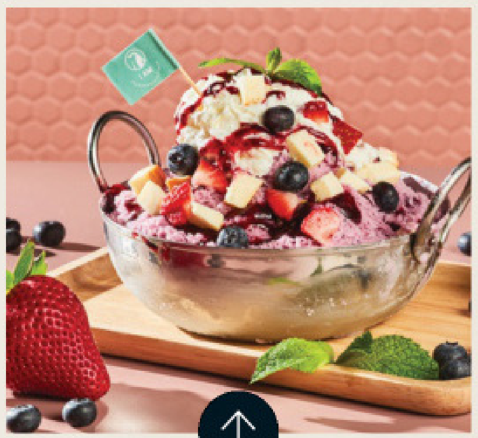
Taharka Brothers
In Baltimore, scoop up creamy artisanal flavors, such as honey graham and matcha mochi.



Azucar
Frozen café con leche is even better than it sounds at this Cuban-inspired shop in Miami.



Crank & Boom
Delicious blends, like blackberry and buttermilk, are made with local ingredients in Lexington, Ky.



I Am Frozen Dessert Café
In Overland Park, Kans., dive into shaved cream—ice cream and shaved ice.

Mora Iced Creamery
At this Bainbridge Island, Wash., shop, savor frozen gianduja, made with rich chocolate and hazelnuts.

(ZION NATIONAL PARK) ISTOCKPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES; (ICE CREAM) CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: KATRIN LEO PAKO; ANNA MEYER; DYLAN KIEL OF CRESCENT RIDGE DAIRY; COURTESY BOOZA; KELLEY COUNTRY CREAMERY; OLIVIA BRENT-FIELDING; PILSEN PHOTO COOP; SARAH JANE WEBB; COURTESY AZUCAR ICE CREAM; COURTESY TAHARKA BROTHERS; (QUEEN LATIFAH) THE TYLER TWINS; RIGHT PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: GABBY JONES/BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES; RODIN ECKENROTH/FILMMAGIC; ANDREW H. WALKER/SHUTTERSTOCK

95

THE GREAT OUTDOORS!

Now that the country has opened up, people can't wait to get out and go places. Top travel destinations include beach towns, mountains and national parks like Zion (shown here), according to search data compiled by Airbnb. Call it a vaccination vacation, taken to celebrate protection against COVID.

99

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Among America's most loved vaccination sites: New York's American Museum of Natural History, with shots administered under the giant blue whale, now sporting a post-jab bandage in solidarity.

100

JENNIFER LOPEZ & BEN AFFLECK'S REKINDLED ROMANCE

The couple's second chance at love is giving fans a little nostalgia for the early 2000s—and plenty of goose bumps. ●

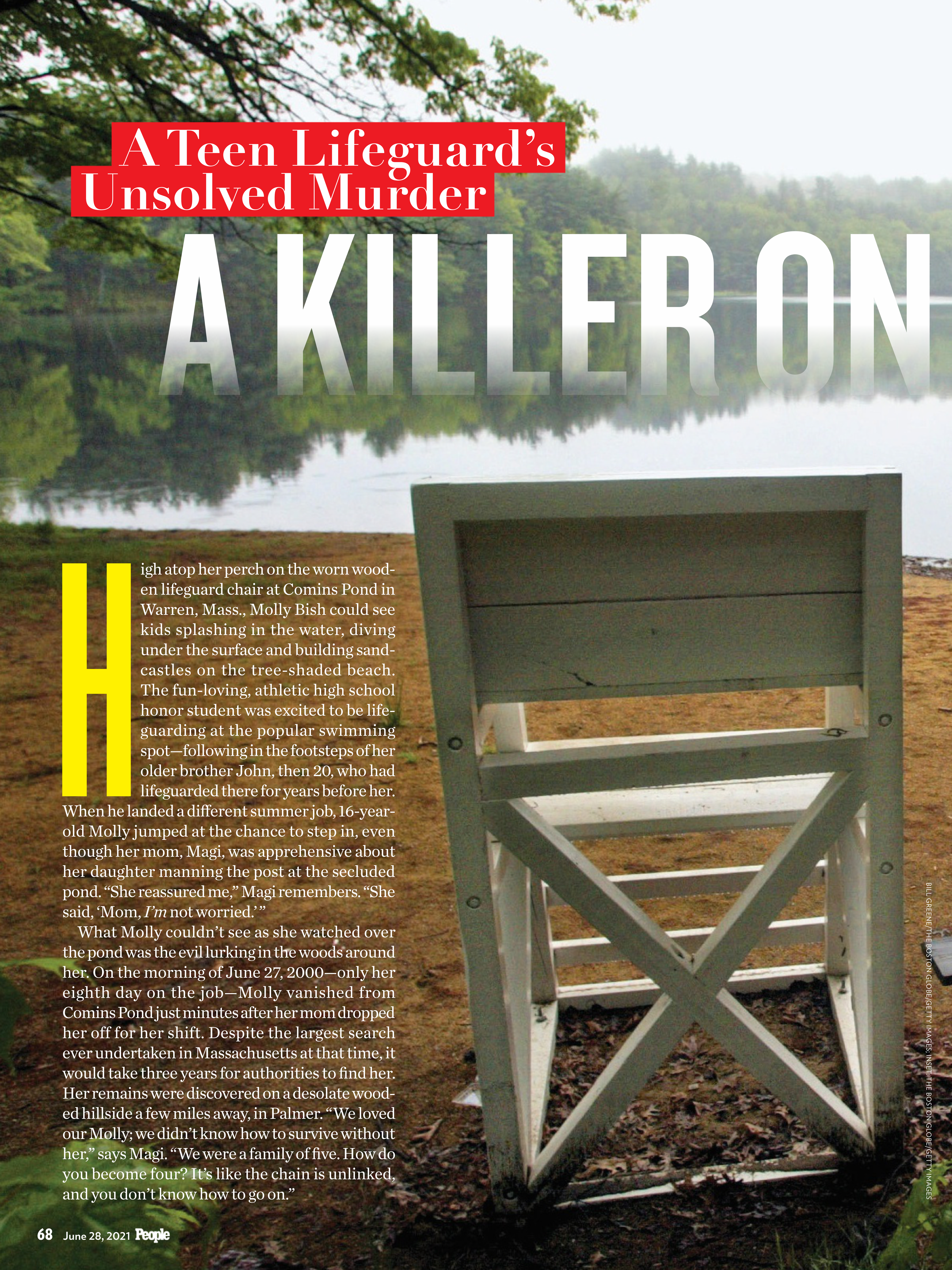
★ ★ ★

97. QUEEN LATIFAH

She made a triumphant return to TV in CBS's *The Equalizer*. Said executive producer Debra Martin Chase: "I have been trying for almost 20 years to bring a Black woman who kicks butt to the screen."

98. Stanley Tucci's Cocktails

Before launching his CNN show *Searching for Italy,* the actor and connoisseur broke the Internet with instructional videos for making a negroni, a margarita, a Scotch sour and an old-fashioned.



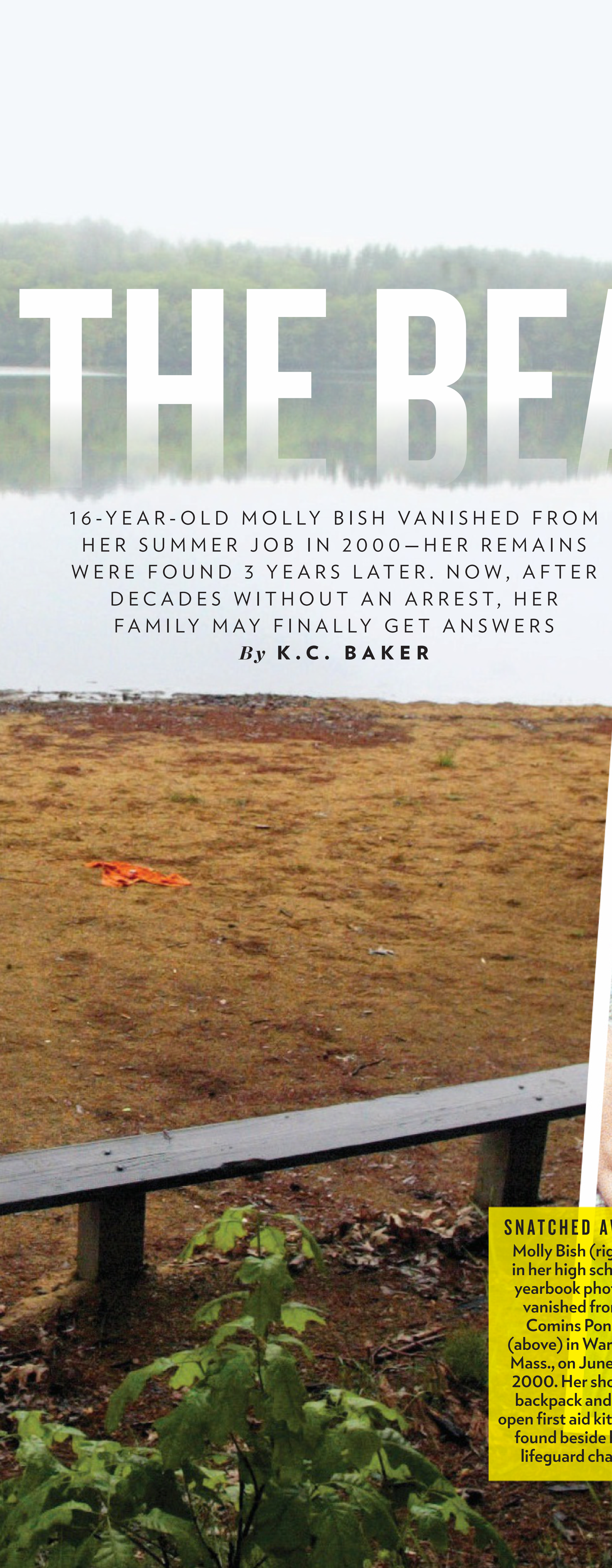
A Teen Lifeguard's Unsolved Murder

A KILLER ON

High atop her perch on the worn wooden lifeguard chair at Comins Pond in Warren, Mass., Molly Bish could see kids splashing in the water, diving under the surface and building sandcastles on the tree-shaded beach. The fun-loving, athletic high school honor student was excited to be lifeguarding at the popular swimming spot—following in the footsteps of her older brother John, then 20, who had lifeguarded there for years before her. When he landed a different summer job, 16-year-old Molly jumped at the chance to step in, even though her mom, Magi, was apprehensive about her daughter manning the post at the secluded pond. "She reassured me," Magi remembers. "She said, 'Mom, *I'm* not worried.' "

What Molly couldn't see as she watched over the pond was the evil lurking in the woods around her. On the morning of June 27, 2000—only her eighth day on the job—Molly vanished from Comins Pond just minutes after her mom dropped her off for her shift. Despite the largest search ever undertaken in Massachusetts at that time, it would take three years for authorities to find her. Her remains were discovered on a desolate wooded hillside a few miles away, in Palmer. "We loved our Molly; we didn't know how to survive without her," says Magi. "We were a family of five. How do you become four? It's like the chain is unlinked, and you don't know how to go on."

BILL GREENE/THE BOSTON GLOBE/GETTY IMAGES; INSET: THE BOSTON GLOBE/GETTY IMAGES



THE BEACH

16-YEAR-OLD MOLLY BISH VANISHED FROM HER SUMMER JOB IN 2000—HER REMAINS WERE FOUND 3 YEARS LATER. NOW, AFTER DECADES WITHOUT AN ARREST, HER FAMILY MAY FINALLY GET ANSWERS

By **K.C. BAKER**

SNATCHED AWAY
Molly Bish (right, in her high school yearbook photo) vanished from Comins Pond (above) in Warren, Mass., on June 27, 2000. Her shoes, backpack and an open first aid kit were found beside her lifeguard chair.

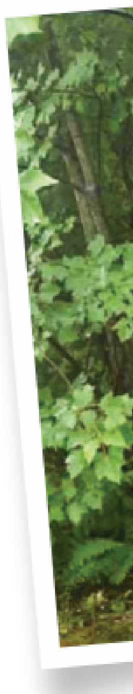
Now, after more than two decades, the Bishes may finally get some long-awaited answers in Molly's murder. On June 3—weeks before the 21st anniversary of Molly's disappearance—police announced they had identified Francis "Frank" Sumner Sr., 71, a convicted rapist and kidnapper, as a credible suspect in Molly's murder, based on information received months ago in the case, which they never stopped investigating. "We have growing confidence in the tip," says Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early Jr. While he's "optimistic" about this latest development, he knows justice may never truly be served—Sumner died in 2016. Still, he hopes to give the Bish family a measure of relief. "What the family really wants is Molly back," he says. "The thing they want, I can't give them."

It was about 9:55 a.m. on June 27, 2000, when Magi dropped Molly off at the beach. At 1:30 p.m. she received a heart-jolting call from the Warren assistant police chief, telling her Molly hadn't been seen at work since around 10:08 a.m., when mothers bringing their kids for morning swim lessons called to report there was no lifeguard on duty. Knowing Molly would never have left her post unless there was an emergency, Magi rushed to the pond. "I was desperately yelling, 'Molly! Molly!'" she says. When Magi saw Molly's backpack in the sand near the lifeguard chair along with her shoes, a chill raced down her spine: "Why would she leave without her shoes?" Molly's older sister Heather, then 24, watched her normally unflappable mom demanding to speak to the local police chief with increasing panic. "My stomach dropped," says Heather. "I was like, 'Something's really wrong.'"

> 'I'VE SPENT HALF MY LIFE HUNTING MOLLY'S MURDERER. I'M HOPEFUL I DON'T HAVE TO ANYMORE'
> —HEATHER BISH

Initially, local police guessed that Molly might have simply left the site to go off with friends, but it soon became clear there was something more sinister going on. "As soon as the state police came in, they started looking at it as an abduction or a homicide, like, 'What happened to this girl?'" Heather remembers. Divers—including Molly's frantic brother John—delved into the pond's murky waters, trying to find any trace of the teen. Volunteers and police with search dogs combed the surrounding forest, theorizing that whoever had abducted Molly had been watching her from behind her lifeguard chair, hidden in the woods. "It's a perfect place that someone could see her," says Magi. "And could get her."

It would take three years and hundreds of fruitless tips before a local hunter mentioned to a friend that he'd seen a blue bathing suit in the woods on Whiskey Hill, approximately three miles from Comins Pond. The friend contacted police, and on June 9, 2003, Molly's remains were located. "There's no understanding of it," says Magi. "It just really doesn't make sense."

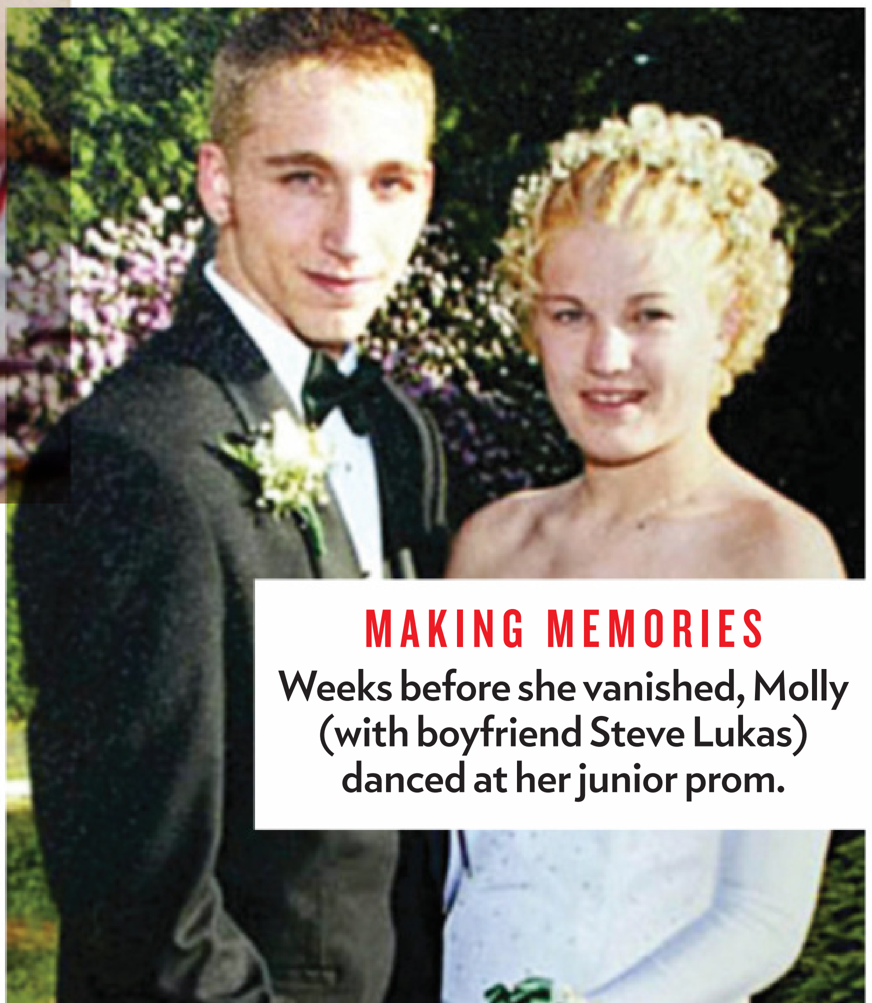


Haunted by the several hours wasted when authorities thought Molly had simply run away, Magi, 69, now a retired special education teacher, and her husband, John, 72, a retired probation officer, spent the years after Molly's death channeling their pain into helping other families. In 2001 they partnered with then-U.S. Sen.

A LIFE CUT SHORT

SISTERLY BOND
"Molly loved the underdog," says Heather (left, with Molly in 1997). "She believed in people."

A BRIGHT LIGHT
Athletic and smart, Molly (in spring 2000) had "the smile in her eyes," says mom Magi. "She was special."



MAKING MEMORIES
Weeks before she vanished, Molly (with boyfriend Steve Lukas) danced at her junior prom.

(MOLLY, HEART) COURTESY BISH FAMILY(4); (SWINGS, WOODS, GRIEVING) BILL GREENE/THE BOSTON GLOBE/GETTY IMAGES(3); (WATER SEARCH) BILL KAMERMAN/THE BOSTON GLOBE/GETTY IMAGES; (SKETCH) CHARLES KRUPA/AP/SHUTTERSTOCK; (MUGSHOT) WORCESTER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

DESPERATE SEARCH

Authorities scoured the pond and surrounding woods for Molly in what was then the largest search operation in state history. Far right: A sketch of a man seen near the pond, smoking in a white Chrysler, the day before Molly disappeared. Police say this may be Frank Sumner Sr.—who could be Molly's killer.

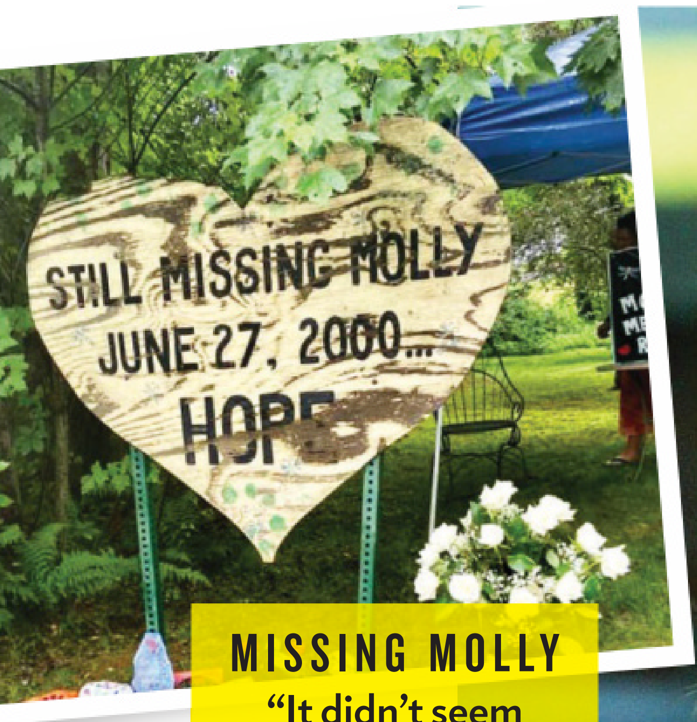
Ted Kennedy to bring Amber Alerts to Massachusetts and worked to launch the state's Missing Children's Day. They also started the Molly Bish Foundation to raise awareness about child abductions and have distributed more than 750,000 free ID kits to families to help find their children should they ever go missing. "Molly, in her own way, has a legacy no one would have ever thought," says Magi. "That makes my heart beat."

Since 2019 Heather has also been working with the state legislature on a bill that would let Massachusetts join other states in allowing law enforcement to use familial DNA searches in the investigation of violent cold cases. Says State Sen. Anne Gobi, the bill's lead sponsor, "[Molly's case] definitely raised awareness, in a scary way."

For now, the Bishes are hopeful about the break in the case. On June 2 authorities met with Heather to discuss the new suspect—and to return some of Molly's belongings investigators took during the initial investigation. Among the items were Molly's purse, sunglasses and prom invitations, all bringing back memories of the sister who never made it past the age of 16. In the bags of belongings, Heather also found a soundtrack cassette tape from the animated movie *An American Tail* with one of Molly's favorite songs. "It's 'Somewhere out There,' and she loved that song," Heather says. "When that came back, I thought, 'Oh…it's a little sign from my sister.'"

NEW SUSPECT
A recent tip led police to Frank Sumner Sr., a convicted rapist and kidnapper from the area.

If you have any information about this case or Frank Sumner Sr., contact the anonymous Molly Bish tipline at 508-453-7575.



MISSING MOLLY
"It didn't seem real," says mom Magi (center, with husband John and daughter Heather in 2003, the day after Molly's remains were found). Above: A sign still stands in the Bishes' yard.

Venerated Veteran
"This is the best job in journalism," says Stahl (in her office in 2017). Above, Stahl and the 1991 *60 Minutes* team: Morley Safer, Mike Wallace, Ed Bradley and Steve Kroft.

LESLEY STAHL

My Amazing Life!

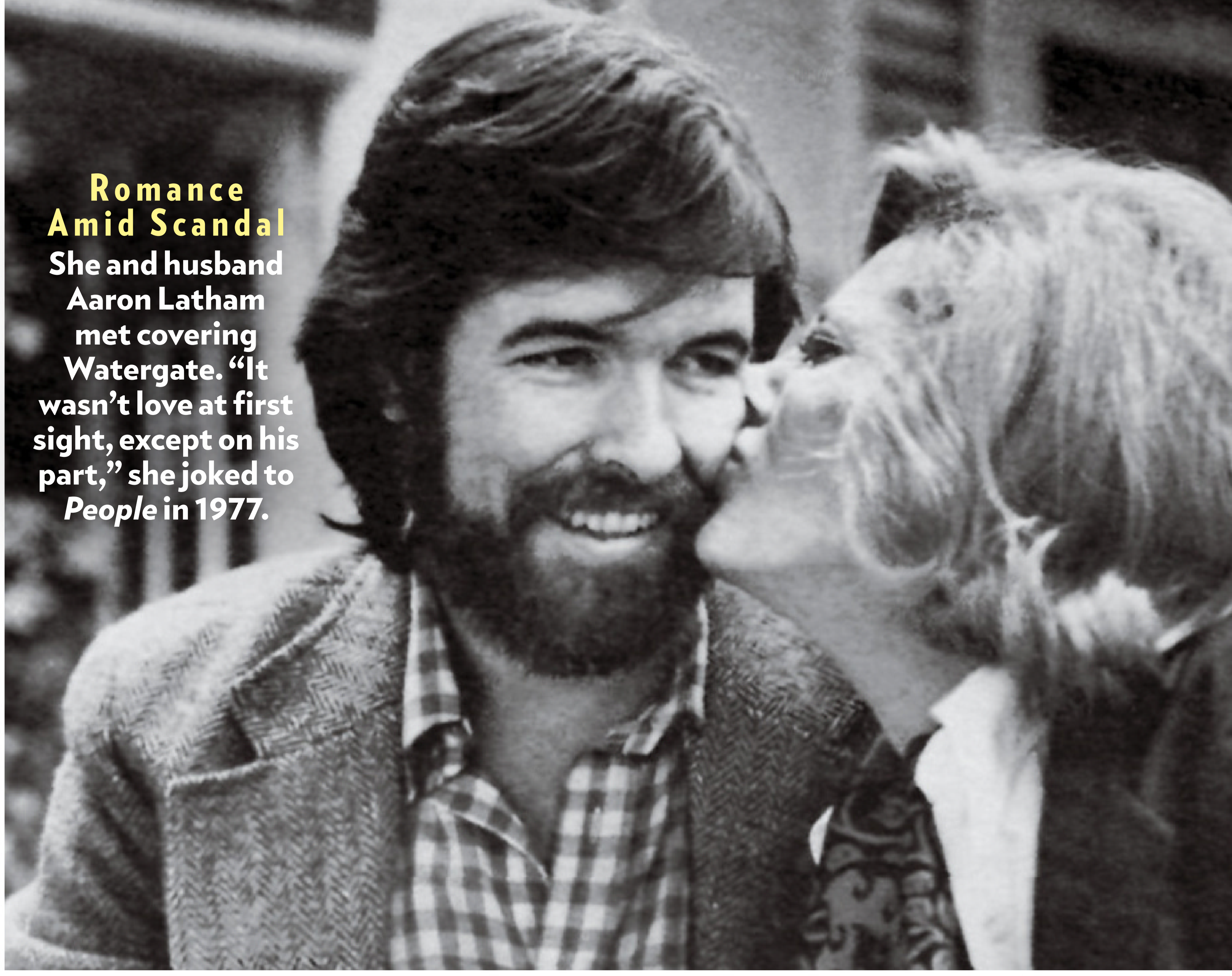
AS SHE MARKS THREE DECADES AT *60 MINUTES*, THE ACCLAIMED JOURNALIST REFLECTS ON THE HISTORY SHE'S WITNESSED AND THE PEOPLE WHO LIFTED HER THROUGHOUT HER EXTRAORDINARY CAREER

By **MARY GREEN**

When producer Don Hewitt asked Lesley Stahl to join *60 Minutes* in 1991, she was hesitant to say yes—but not because she would be joining a notoriously male-dominated crew. "I was reluctant because I had a 14-year-old," says Stahl, 79, referring to her daughter Taylor, now 43. "We lived in Washington her entire life. Already I was covering the President, so I was running around the country. And now I'm going to move her away from all her friends? By the time I got [to New York], my stomach was in knots because I was so worried about my daughter."

The move, of course, turned out to be a successful one for Stahl, a pioneering journalist who's rarely intimidated—but always candid about what it has taken to break barriers as a woman. This year marks her 30th at *60 Minutes* and 49th at CBS. As she celebrates the milestones, Stahl reflects on key moments in a career that has spanned the Watergate scandal, two Gulf wars, two Bush presidencies and a reality star turned President who famously walked out on their final interview last year. And like many moms, she figured out how to make it all work for her family. Taylor "got to reinvent herself, and it turned out to be perfect," Stahl says, smiling. "I woke up one day when I knew she was okay and I said, 'Wow, I'm in clover. This is good.'"

She didn't plan to be a journalist. Stahl grew up in suburban Boston, the daughter of Dorothy, a writer, and Louis, a food company executive. "My mother wanted me to be a professional," she says. "She didn't care what the profession was: architecture, medicine, law. After college I went to work



Romance Amid Scandal
She and husband Aaron Latham met covering Watergate. "It wasn't love at first sight, except on his part," she joked to *People* in 1977.

as a researcher—the girl's job in those days—for the mayor of New York, John Lindsay. I walked into the press room, and I said to one of the reporters, 'What is this? What do you do all day?' He told me, and this click went off in my head. From that second on, I knew. I just knew I had to find a way to do this."

She says affirmative action got her hired at CBS.
Stahl recalls working for a local affiliate in Boston when "a friend of mine in New York called and said, 'You know, all these networks, they're desperate for a woman. If you've had any experience at all, you should apply.'" She did, and Stahl joined fellow hires Connie Chung and Bernard Shaw in the Washington, D.C., bureau of CBS in 1972. "We were reporters, and all the men were correspondents," she says. "Everybody had an office, and we had—I'm not kidding—children's desks in the hallway, in case we didn't understand our status around there." But the new staffers were positioned to succeed. "The senior correspondents let us follow them, go out with them on stories," she says. "This is a lesson in leadership, because our boss in the Washington bureau was committed to affirmative action. When the guy at the top says, 'We're not going to let these kids sink,' it happens." Chung became a star at CBS as an *Evening News* coanchor and reporter, and Shaw was a top CNN anchor for 21 years.

Watergate changed everything—personally and professionally.
For her first CBS assignment, Stahl was assigned to cover the seemingly small break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in D.C. in June 1972. "Nobody thought it was anything," she recalls. Stahl was one of only two reporters in the courtroom the day the burglars were arraigned. The other? Bob Woodward. "We became instant friends—in fact, we even dated," she says, laughing. "He said, 'Don't let them ever take this story away from you.'" Stahl stayed on the story as it grew into a presidential scandal, and she began appearing on the evening news. During that time, she met Aaron Latham, a writer for *New York Magazine*. "He called me out of the blue; I think I slammed the phone down on him," she admits. "We dated through the hearings and the trials. Then finally Nixon resigned, and we looked at each other and we said, 'What are we going to talk about now?'" Three years later they wed.

> 'A lot of people say, "Wow, you got to join the big boys," but I didn't feel that way'
> — ON JOINING *60 MINUTES*

She married a wise man.
Early in their marriage Latham adapted an *Esquire* article he wrote and turned it into the movie *Urban Cowboy*. While Stahl remained in D.C., balancing

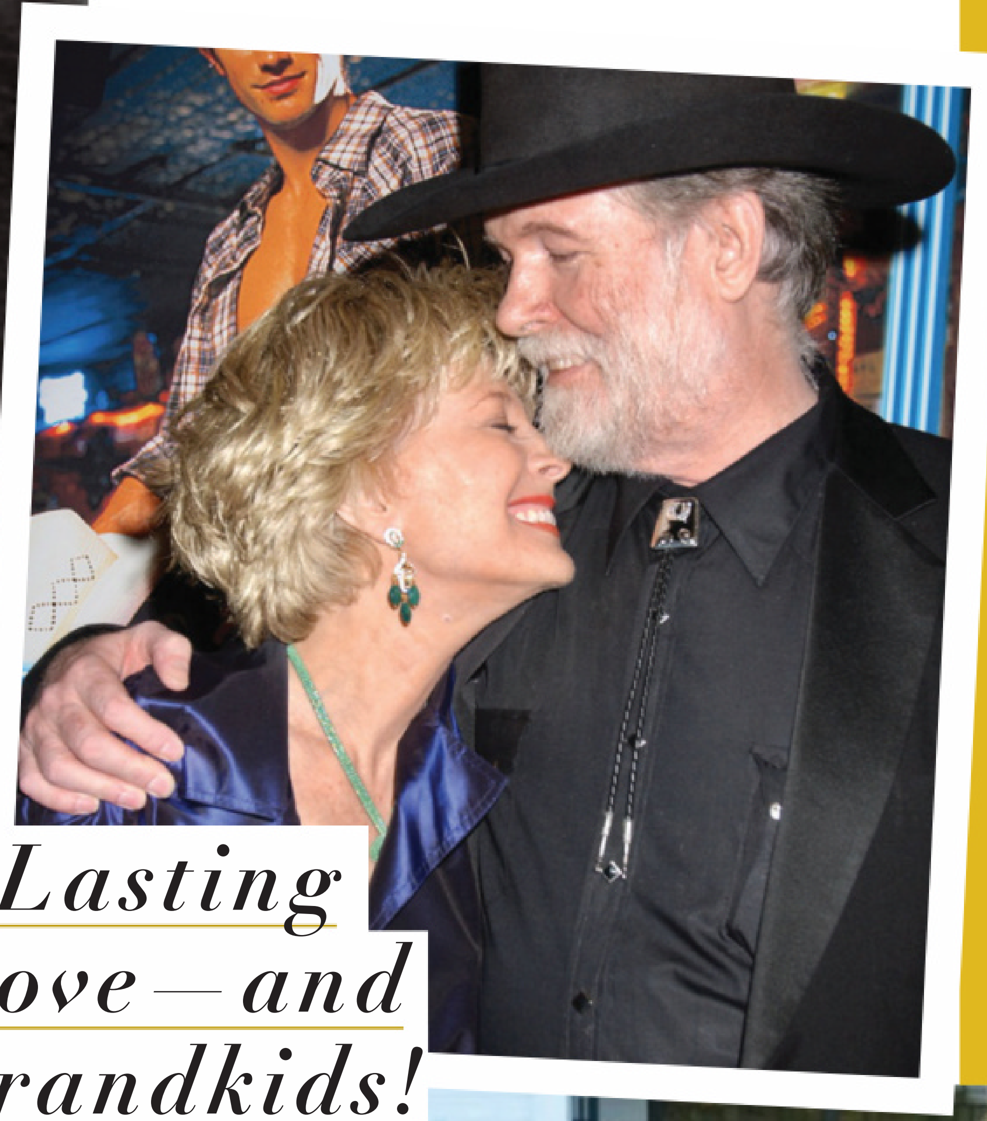
5 Headline-Making Moments

1 | Covering Watergate
Stahl (with reporters including Carl Bernstein, second from left) says she "realized fairly early" that there was more to the 1972 story than just a bungled burglary.

2 | Anchoring the 1974 election
Stahl was the first woman to anchor a CBS election desk. Here, she joined Roger Mudd, Walter Cronkite, Dan Rather and Mike Wallace. "Walter really was Uncle Walter—to all the giants," she says.

3 | Her first *60 Minutes* story
For the March 1991 piece, Stahl went to Romania to investigate a baby-selling ring.

PREVIOUS SPREAD: RICHARD DREW/AP; INSET: CBS/GETTY IMAGES



Lasting Love—and Grandkids!

Her Urban Cowboy
Latham's ***Esquire*** article inspired the movie, which he cowrote. The couple attended the opening of the Broadway adaptation in 2003.

Grandma Time
Stahl's greatest joy is spending time with daughter Taylor and granddaughters Jordan and Chloe.

work and motherhood solo, Latham was in Houston filming. Tensions were already high when she visited one weekend. "We had a terrible, terrible fight, and I said, 'Well, this marriage is over,'" she says. "I had called a cab to take me back to the airport. Right before the cab got there, he said to me, 'You know, you can walk out. That's fine. I don't like you. You don't like me. But if you stay and we work through this and we survive, this will be the thing you are most proud of in your life.' And here I am, and it is."

She wasn't intimidated by *60 Minutes*.
"A lot of people say, 'Wow, you got to join the big boys,' but I didn't feel that way. I had covered the White House for 10 years by then and anchored, and I felt kind of at home. I was embraced. I became part of the boys' club immediately and never had a moment where they made me feel unworthy because I was a woman. It is the best job for a journalist in broadcast television." Of course, it hasn't always been smooth sailing. "People have walked out on me in the middle of interviews," she says.

One of the most memorable walkouts happened just a few months ago.
In October 2020 Stahl interviewed then-President Donald Trump, just two weeks before the presidential election. It was the fourth time she had sat with him. "He was always quite charming, gracious and would joke around with me before we started," she says. "This time was different. This time, he walked in in a bad mood. We did plan an interview about policy, but I said to him, 'If you say something that's not true, I'm going to have to say something about it.'" She pressed him about COVID-19 and his attacks on the media, and Trump cut the interview short. "He just seemed to wear out," Stahl says. Two days later Trump released the interview himself, breaking an agreement with *60 Minutes*: "We were beyond shocked."

The past year has been tough...
She and her husband both contracted COVID-19. "I had it much worse than he did," she says. "I ended up getting pneumonia, and I had to go to the hospital. I recovered 100 percent." But Latham, 77, who has been living with Parkinson's disease for more than a decade, has had serious side effects. "My husband had a very mild case, but it played havoc with his [Parkinson's] disease, sadly. It seems the virus accelerated his Parkinson's."

But Stahl continues to power forward.
"I would like to [work] until I start to falter either mentally or physically," she says. "I've been reading about all the people who have done fabulous things in their lives, older than I am now. So I'm keeping going." ●

4 | **Boris Yeltsin storming off**
In 1992 the Russian president claimed CBS conspired with his nemesis Mikhail Gorbachev to alter a video to make him look drunk.

5 | **President Trump walking out**
For their three previous interviews, he was "charming," says Stahl. In October 2020, the embattled President was unusually "solemn."

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JOHN NEUBAUER; ROBIN PLATZER FILMMAGIC/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY LESLEY STAHL; CBS(4); FRED J MAROON

Making It Official!
The blended Willis clan in San Diego, celebrating after all seven adoptions were finalized on Aug. 7, 2020. Clockwise from bottom center: Xander, 4, Aleecia, 9, Ruby, 13, Alexa, 27, Andrew, 30, Sam, 20, Matthew, 32, Pam, Gary, Adelino, 16, Sophia, 23, Anthony, 8, Leo, 6, and Aubriella, 7.

A Gift *of* Family

WITH THEIR FIVE KIDS GROWN, PAM AND GARY WILLIS WERE READY TO RELAX. THEN THEY LEARNED ABOUT SEVEN SIBLINGS WHO'D LOST THEIR PARENTS—AND EVERYTHING CHANGED

By **JOHNNY DODD** *and* **SUSAN YOUNG**

In January 2019, after 30 years of marriage and five kids together, Pam and Gary Willis were just months away from becoming happy empty nesters. Four of their kids had already moved out of the Willis's Menifee, Calif., home, and were settled with jobs and/or families of their own; their youngest, Sam, was preparing to graduate from high school and set off on a mission trip for their church. Then Pam spotted a story on Facebook about seven siblings whose parents had been killed in a car accident. The children had been living in a private foster home in San Diego. "I knew if I told Gary that we should adopt seven children, he'd tell me I'm crazy," recalls Pam, 50, with a laugh. "So I tagged him on the story and that night I asked if he'd read it." His response took her by surprise. "I just felt for those kids after I read that story," says Gary, 53. "And I told her, 'We should adopt them.'"

Six months later the Willises' six-bedroom house was suddenly full again. And after a chaotic and troubled early life marked by their parents' struggles with homelessness, addiction and domestic violence, all seven siblings—Adelino, 16, Ruby, 13, Aleecia, 9, Anthony, 8, Aubriella, 7,

JON SILVER PHOTOGRAPHY

Leo, 6, and Xander, 4—are happily adjusting to life as Willises. "The very first time I read about them," says Pam, who, with Gary, formally adopted the siblings last August, "I kept looking at their pictures and falling in love with them. I just knew that they were supposed to be my children."

Since their arrival the couple's life has been a blur of activity. Despite their experience raising their own kids (Matthew, 32, Andrew, 30, Alexa, 27, Sophia, 23, and Sam, 20—all of whom fully embraced their parents' decision to adopt) and serving as foster parents to numerous children since 2013, the new kids brought new parenting challenges—including various emotional issues arising from their unstable childhood. "It was crazy and difficult in the beginning, but that's normal," says Gary, who spent months sleeping on various bedroom floors to convince the children that he and his wife weren't going to abandon them. During the day, while Pam works as an attorney for a medical malpractice insurance company, Gary, now retired from careers in the post office and as a Navy corpsman, oversees much of the children's homeschooling.

Seven Smiles
"I grew up taking care of my brothers and sisters, but now I get to be more of a kid than a parent," says Ruby (second from left, with, from left, Xander, Adelino, Leo, Aleecia, Aubriella and Anthony in December 2020).

Clearly it's the little things—like trips to the beach, their backyard trampoline and visiting a nearby mall—that have given all seven kids a taste of the childhood they'd never experienced before. "What we take for granted, like going to Denny's, they enjoy every minute of," says Gary. "They'd never been to a restaurant, and the first time we went they couldn't stop staring at their food and saying, 'This is crazy!'" Adelino, the oldest, admits that he sometimes has to pinch himself when he thinks about his new life. "There were so many sleepless nights back when we were with our biological parents just trying to survive and living day by day," he says. "It's great to finally have people I can rely on in my life. Pam and Gary are so dependable."

As for the Willises, they're relishing every moment of their second round of parenthood. In the coming weeks, the whole clan is planning to hit the road for a four-night vacation—and, like everything involving their blended family, it's going to be big. "We're going to take the kids to see the redwoods in Northern California," says Pam. "There'll be 25 of us, with our older kids and grandkids. But it doesn't really matter where we go. It's being together that counts." ●

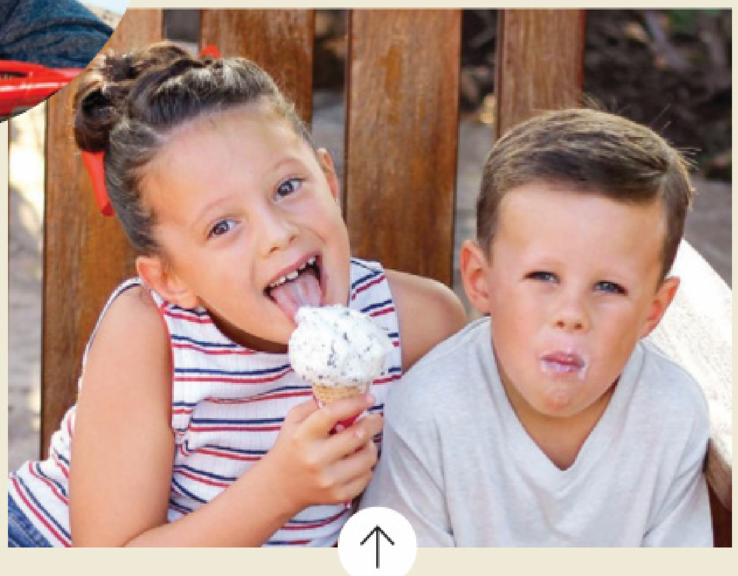
The New Willis 7 Settle In

Teens in Charge
"Our lives have taken a great turn from how it used to be," says Adelino (with his younger sister Ruby).

A Fresh Start
"The youngest ones don't really remember their lives before," say Pam. Below: Leo, then 4, at play.

Mama's Little Girl
"It felt like I gave birth to septuplets because they all came at once," says Pam (with Aubriella).

Father and Son
"You can just look in their eyes and see how happy and appreciative they are," says Gary (with Xander).



Sweet Moments
Aleecia and Anthony revel in newfound treats like ice cream. The siblings were in foster care for 11 months before moving in with the Willises.

COURTESY WILLIS FAMILY(6)

Center of Their World
"Everything that Grace does is amazing," says Bindi (with Powell). "She'll giggle, and we all drop what we're doing to watch."

BINDI IRWIN

'I Never Knew Love Like This!'

THE ANIMAL PLANET STAR AND HER HUSBAND TALK ABOUT LIFE WITH THEIR NEW BABY GIRL: 'SHE'S PERFECT IN EVERY WAY'

By **EMILY STROHM**

It's been nearly three months since Bindi Irwin and *her husband, Chandler Powell, welcomed daughter Grace Warrior Irwin Powell, but the* Crikey! It's the Irwins *star says she feels like she's known her first-born forever. "When we first got her home, it's as if she's always been with us," says Bindi, 22, who gave birth to Grace on March 25. "It's a really strange feeling when you can't remember what your life was like before this beautiful little person. I never knew love like this before." The daughter of* Crocodile Hunter *star Steve Irwin is now happily settled into life at home at the Australia Zoo, where she and Powell, 24, are raising Grace with help from Bindi's mom, Terri (who goes by "Bunny" instead of "Grandma"), and younger brother Robert. "Every evening, we take her out and introduce her to all of our wildlife family. It's the perfect place to raise her," says Powell. Adds Bindi: "Grace loves adventures, and she's such a happy, inquisitive little person. We can already tell: She's definitely an Irwin."*

TOP LEFT: CHANDLER POWELL/INSTAGRAM

Becoming a Grandmother

"Having Bindi was surreal, watching her grow up with her passions and interests. But it's a different experience entirely when your child has a child. It's another layer of amazing," says Terri. "Bindi's the most amazing mother and takes everything in stride. She's so calm and reassuring. That's what makes Grace so calm. Being a grandmother is just wow, it's so cool. How lucky am I that we're all here together?"

Outdoor Baby
"She loves looking up at our big trees," says Bindi.

Surrounded by Love
"I'm so stoked about being an uncle!" says Bindi's brother Robert, 17 (holding Grace). He'll appear in Discovery's Shark Week in July.

Grace will be 3 months old on June 25. Any fun recent milestones?
BINDI She just did her first full proper laugh! It's amazing the lengths you go to get her to giggle and smile, because when her little face lights up, it's the best part of your entire day. When she smiles, she smiles with her whole body. Her hands go to her cheeks, and her face crinkles into this beautiful big grin. She is the full embodiment of sunshine.

How were the first few days home from the hospital?
CHANDLER I was so amazed by Bindi. She gave birth, and within hours she was changing diapers and feeding Grace. Just right into it, wasted no time. That was incredible to watch. It was surreal bringing her home and knowing that that's our baby. We'd take shifts holding her throughout the night. It's amazing how you can go without sleep and still think this little thing is the most magical thing in the world.

Was breastfeeding a challenge?
BINDI It's a learning curve. You want to make sure your baby is full, and you're learning as a new mom as well. It was the most exciting moment when she figured out how to latch properly.

> 'She is the full embodiment of sunshine'
> –BINDI ON HER DAUGHTER

Have you settled into a routine?
BINDI She's a really good sleeper, and she seems to know when it's nighttime and when her parents need some rest. During the day she's pretty active. We always find that the more we do with her, the more walks we go on, the more animals we introduce her to, the better she sleeps that night. It's working out really well. She's been a busy girl.

Who do you think she looks like more?
CHANDLER She's pretty much all Bindi. Her eyes, her ears, everything. I can see sometimes we have similar expressions, but looking at baby photos of Bindi, she and Grace are identical.

Have you gone back to work at the zoo?
BINDI We're in such a unique position where we live in the middle of the zoo and everyone here feels like family. I was able to get back into work so much faster because we do everything together. Anytime we have something with work, Grace just comes along with me. It makes me so happy because she's always by my side. ●

Getting Back to Work
Crikey! It's the Irwins airs Saturdays at 8 p.m. on Animal Planet.
→

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM RIGHT: KATE BERRY/AUSTRALIA ZOO; ROBERT IRWIN/INSTAGRAM; CHANDLER POWELL/INSTAGRAM; BINDI IRWIN/INSTAGRAM(2)

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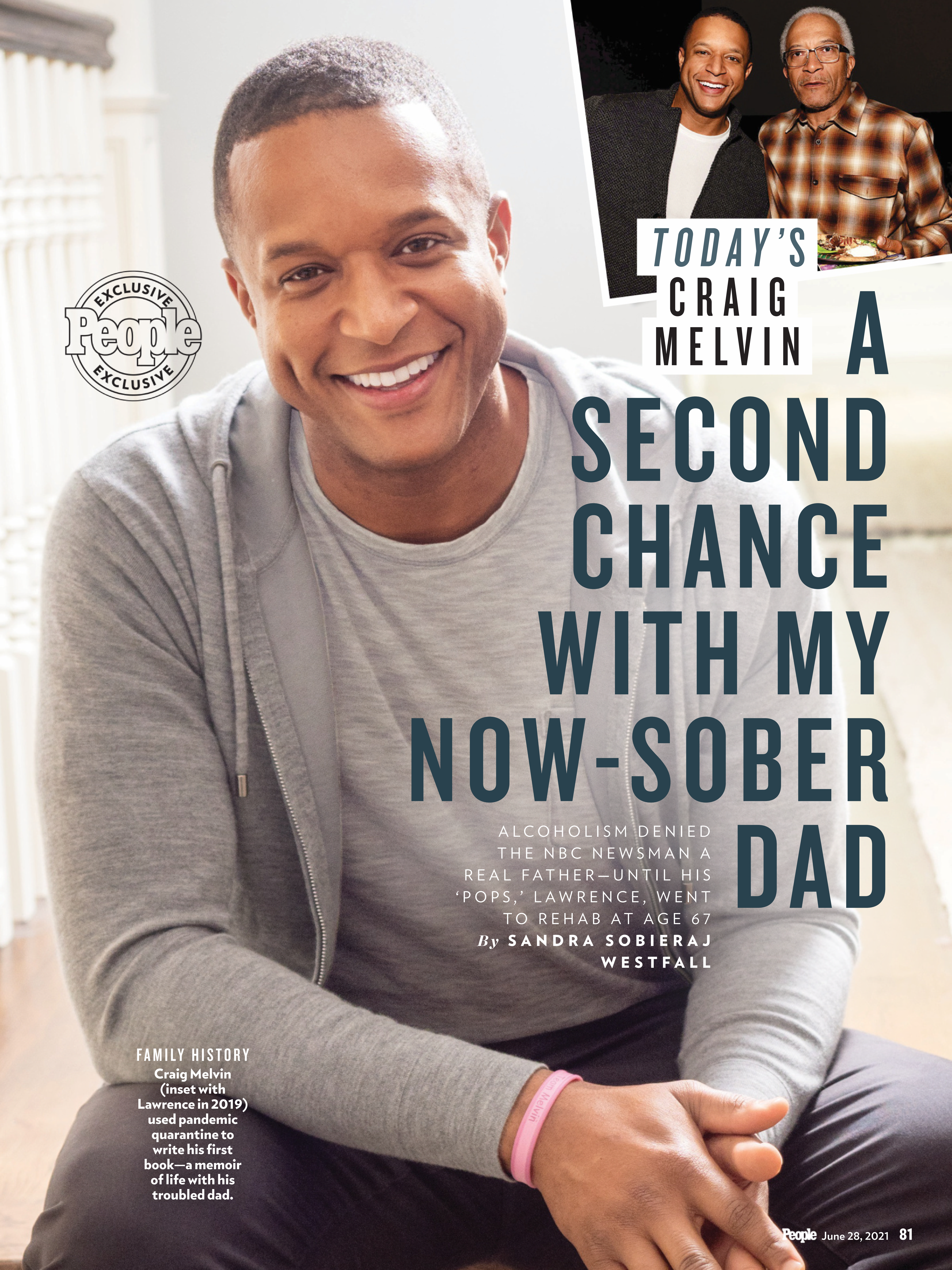


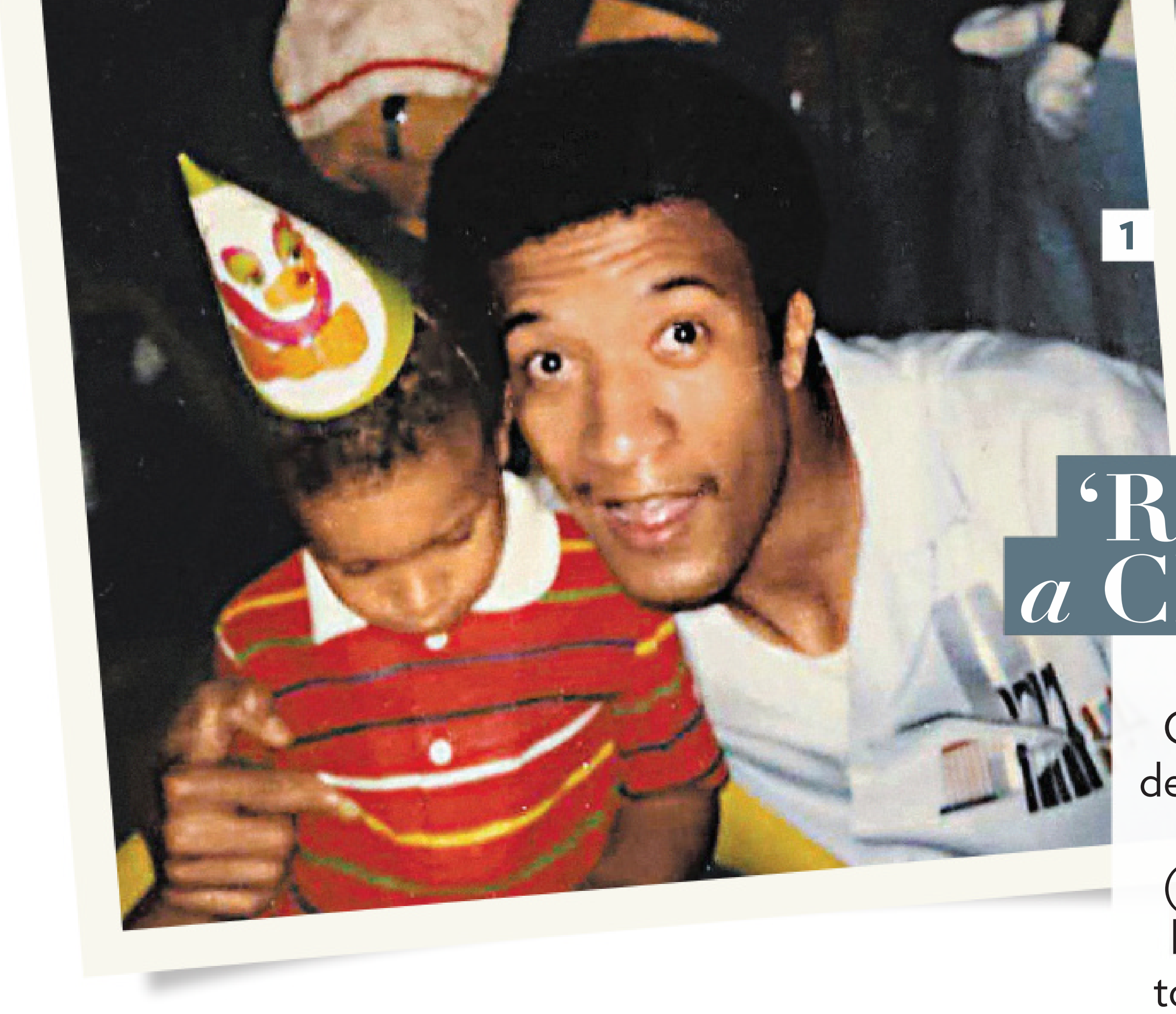
TODAY'S CRAIG MELVIN

A SECOND CHANCE WITH MY NOW-SOBER DAD

ALCOHOLISM DENIED THE NBC NEWSMAN A REAL FATHER—UNTIL HIS 'POPS,' LAWRENCE, WENT TO REHAB AT AGE 67

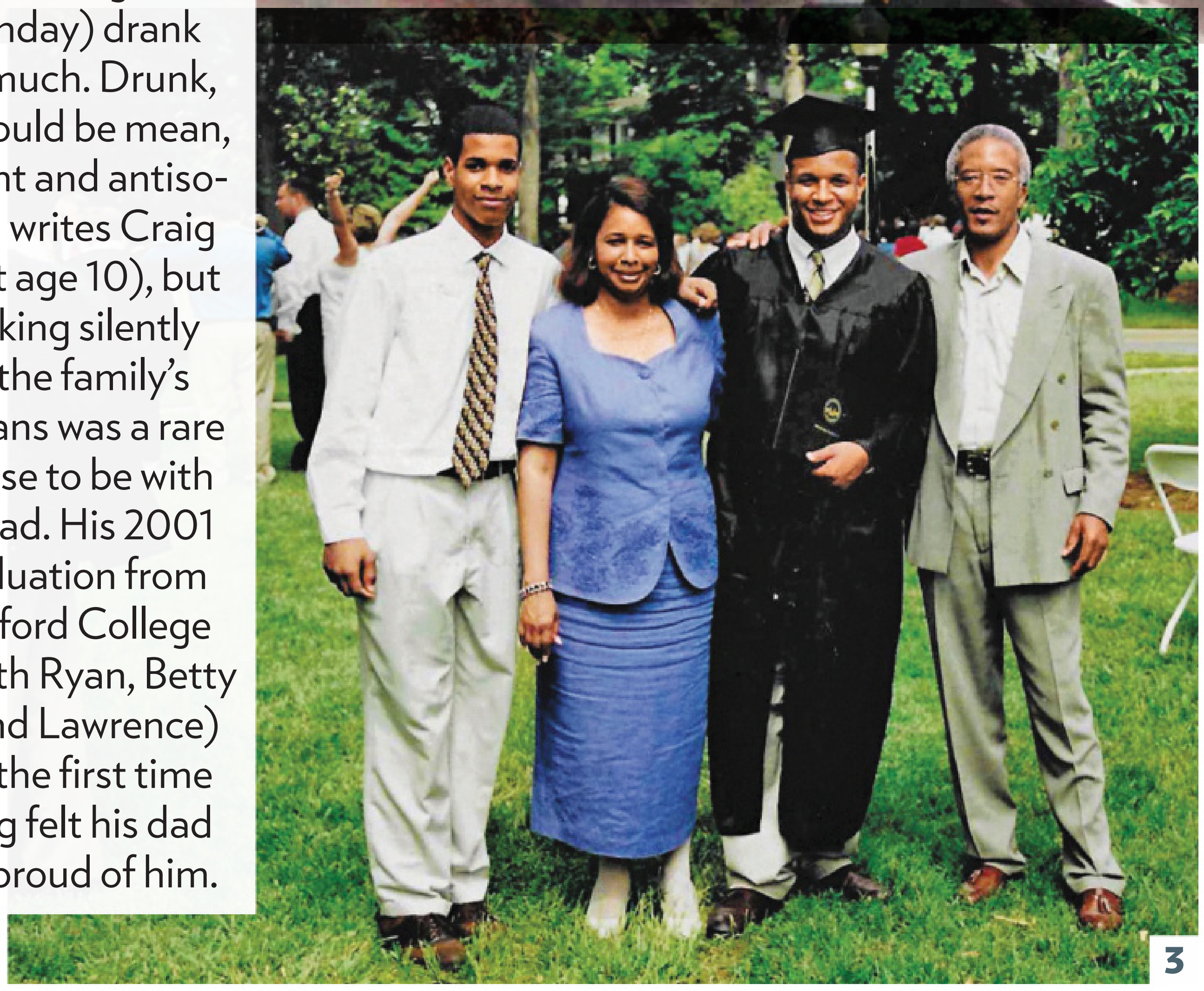
By **SANDRA SOBIERAJ WESTFALL**

FAMILY HISTORY Craig Melvin (inset with Lawrence in 2019) used pandemic quarantine to write his first book—a memoir of life with his troubled dad.



'Robbed *of* a Childhood'

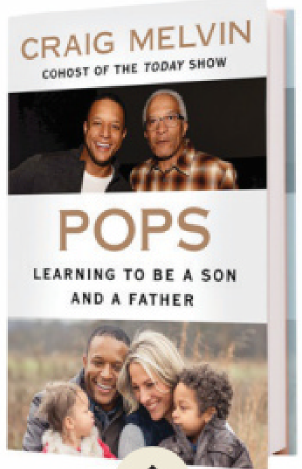
By the time Craig was in kindergarten, he knew that Lawrence (**1,** on Craig's 1st birthday) drank too much. Drunk, "he could be mean, distant and antisocial," writes Craig (**2,** at age 10), but working silently on the family's LeMans was a rare excuse to be with his dad. His 2001 graduation from Wofford College (**3,** with Ryan, Betty Jo and Lawrence) was the first time Craig felt his dad was proud of him.



When Craig Melvin was growing up in Columbia, S.C., it never occurred to him to make his dad a homemade Father's Day card. In fact, the only childhood memories Craig has of the holiday with his father, Lawrence—a drinker whom Craig would sometimes find passed-out drunk—are bitter ones: "A couple years my mom would get a card from the pharmacy, and I'd write my name and give it to Dad, and for three months you'd see it unopened on the dresser," Craig says. "I remember thinking, 'That's pretty beat up.'"

Now that the *Today* news anchor, 42, has children of his own—Delano, 7, and Sybil, 4, with wife Lindsay Czarniak, 43—he reads all their cards aloud before tucking them into a keepsake box. "Because they mean something to me," he says. Just three years ago something from Lawrence joined that collection: a letter the retired postal worker and Air Force veteran wrote in 2018 from rehab, where he spent 10 weeks after more than three decades of living with alcoholism. "It is the only letter he's ever written me," says Craig. "It was about why he was the kind of father he was, how he came to be—an origins letter and, now, a treasure I keep." Hearing this brings tears to Lawrence's eyes. "We were never too close, and I don't remember too many Father's Days," says Lawrence, 70. "I gave him the letter so he can have some good memories now."

Today Lawrence is making fresh memories with his son and grandchildren, with FaceTime calls and visits to their Connecticut home, where he plays and reads with Del and Sibby for hours. "He's so happy and engaged that I'm thinking, 'Who *is* this guy?'" marvels Craig, who chronicles the journey with his dad to rock bottom and back in his new memoir *Pops*. For Lawrence, seeing in print how his addiction to beer (and also cigarettes and gambling) affected his son—"I had a lousy dad," Craig writes—brought relief. "Alcoholics think you're never hurting anybody but yourself, but it's not true," Lawrence says. "The book is just like airing dirty laundry out—in a good way. It's a big relief for me and giving us a chance to get closer."



'MAN OF FEW WORDS'

For the book, Craig spent hours interviewing his dad in 2020—getting him to open up for the first time about his life story.

The son of an alcoholic, absent father, Lawrence had his first beer at around age 15. "It was the neighborhood thing, I guess. I hadn't been taught any better," he says. By the time he was married—to Betty Jo, an elementary school teacher—and had Craig, Lawrence was downing a beer or two during the lunch break of his overnight shift for the Postal Service. "I didn't think it was a big deal, but small things lead to big problems." One of Craig's earliest memories, from around the time he was 5, is of riding in the front seat of Lawrence's prized '73 Pontiac LeMans while his dad drove and drank from a cup of Budweiser. On Fridays, paycheck in hand, Lawrence would park himself—"hour after hour," Craig recalls—in front of the neighborhood liquor store's video poker machines, losing thousands of dollars. Betty Jo had to take a second job as a store cashier to cover the gap for Craig and his younger brother Ryan. "I was just so pissed," says

PREVIOUS PAGE: PAUL COSTELLO/AUGUST; INSET: JERRY GRAHAM

Craig. "There were so many times where I wish my father was there for a recital or a Little League game, and he was passed out. And the gambling nearly destroyed our family."

In Craig's first semester at Wofford College, the family history of addiction (Craig's maternal grandfather was also an alcoholic) came close to pulling Craig down that path. Disgusted by Lawrence's drinking, Craig had always steered clear of alcohol. "Then I get to college, and it's like, whoa!" He did more drinking than studying, landing on academic probation before he learned, he says, to "rein it in."

In 2001, two weeks after graduation, Craig started his first real job in news—at WIS-TV, the NBC affiliate in Columbia—and, making "decent money," was soon enough gambling. "It started with casual Sunday betting on NFL games with a bookie," Craig says. "I was doing really well for a while, and then it's like, 'I owe you *that* much?' That's a problem." Lawrence bailed him out with a loan—and, never much of a sermonizer, a simple warning. "He said, 'You got to cut that out,'" Craig recalls. Around the same time, Craig started therapy to help manage what he calls the "simmering anger and resentment" at his father that was starting to spill over into other relationships. "I thought he was weak and lazy. I didn't understand that he was sick," Craig says.

Still in therapy today—"It's now about how can I be a better husband, a better father"—Craig says he does worry about the genetic predisposition to addiction. But he enjoys an occasional bourbon and, with Lindsay, a Fox Sports reporter, has made a few getaways to the blackjack tables of Las Vegas. "I think there's value in demonstrating for my children that you can engage in things in moderation and not have them destroy your life," he says.

In 2018, when Craig was on the cusp of a promotion from *Today* correspondent to anchor, Lawrence started getting blackout drunk and sideswiped a car in a Wendy's parking lot. "Our greatest fear was that he was going to get drunk and kill someone with his car," says Craig. The family staged an intervention, and Lawrence checked into the Willingway Hospital addiction treatment center in Georgia. He's been sober ever since, still living in Columbia, and six months ago quit cigarettes cold turkey. Next year he and Betty Jo will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. His struggles now are with a bit of depression—and guilt. "You never really get over kicking yourself. But I try not to live in the past, because it's gone," says Lawrence. "Craig and I are in the process of making peace, and my thing now is to do better for my grandkids. It feels good. I'm 70, but I feel like I'm 35." ●

Getting Help

Alcohol is the third-leading preventable cause of death in the U.S. (after tobacco and poor diet/exercise), killing an estimated 95,000 people each year. If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, please go to samhsa.gov or contact the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's helpline at 1-800-662-HELP.

Doing Better for the Grandkids

Lawrence (left, with Craig and Del at N.Y.C.'s American Museum of Natural History; right, with Sibby in May) says his message to others of his generation is "If you put your heart into wanting to do better, it's never too late for a second chance or whatnot."

TAKEAWAYS

Craig (at home in June) profiles inspirational fathers for the *Today* series *Dads Got This!* He says he's learned to be present with his family—and "to loosen up a bit."

'RESENTMENT HAS BEEN REPLACED WITH REDEMPTION'

—CRAIG MELVIN

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM RIGHT: MEI TAO; COURTESY CRAIG MELVIN(5)

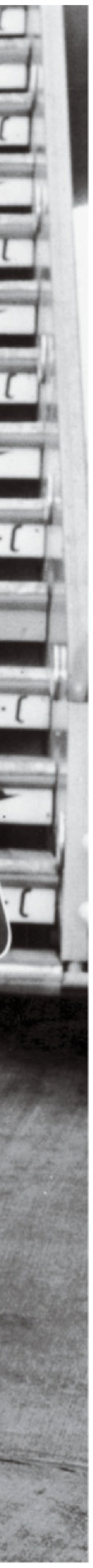
Stars Taking Flight

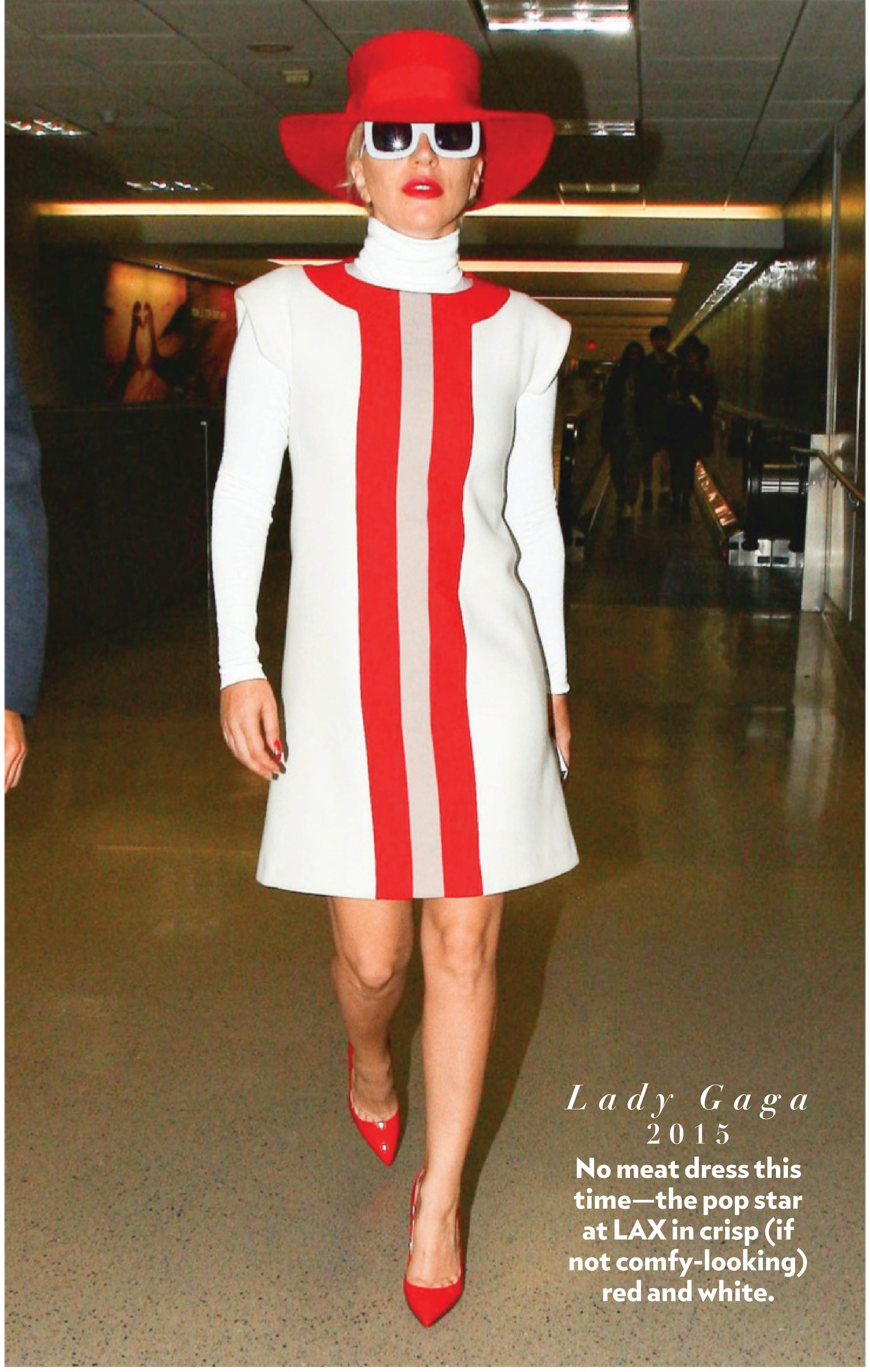
UP, UP AND AWAY! A NEW BOOK SHOWCASES CELEBRITIES' AIR-TRAVEL STYLE *By* **LIZ McNEIL**

What do celebrities wear on planes? Anything from suits to sweats, depending on the era, but "90 percent of the time they've dressed themselves; there's no stylist," says former *Rolling Stone* creative director Jodi Peckman, who has long collected images of celebs' airport looks "just for fun." Now her favorite photos—featuring big furs, small dogs, smart sunglasses and the occasional plush toy—have been compiled in a new book, *Come Fly with Me.* "On the red carpet, stars wear full hair and makeup, borrowed clothing and borrowed jewelry," she says. "This is more real life—captured in motion."

The Supremes
1965
At the height of their fame, the glam trio (from left: Mary Wilson, Florence Ballard and Diana Ross) arrived at London's Heathrow Airport dressed to impress.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: VICTOR CRAWSHAW/MIRRORPIX/GETTY IMAGES/RIZZOLI; SPLASH NEWS/RIZZOLI; ULLSTEIN BILD/GETTY IMAGES/RIZZOLI; EVENING STANDARD/GETTY IMAGES/RIZZOLI; GVK/BAUER-GRIFFIN/GC IMAGES/RIZZOLI





Lady Gaga
2015
No meat dress this time—the pop star at LAX in crisp (if not comfy-looking) red and white.

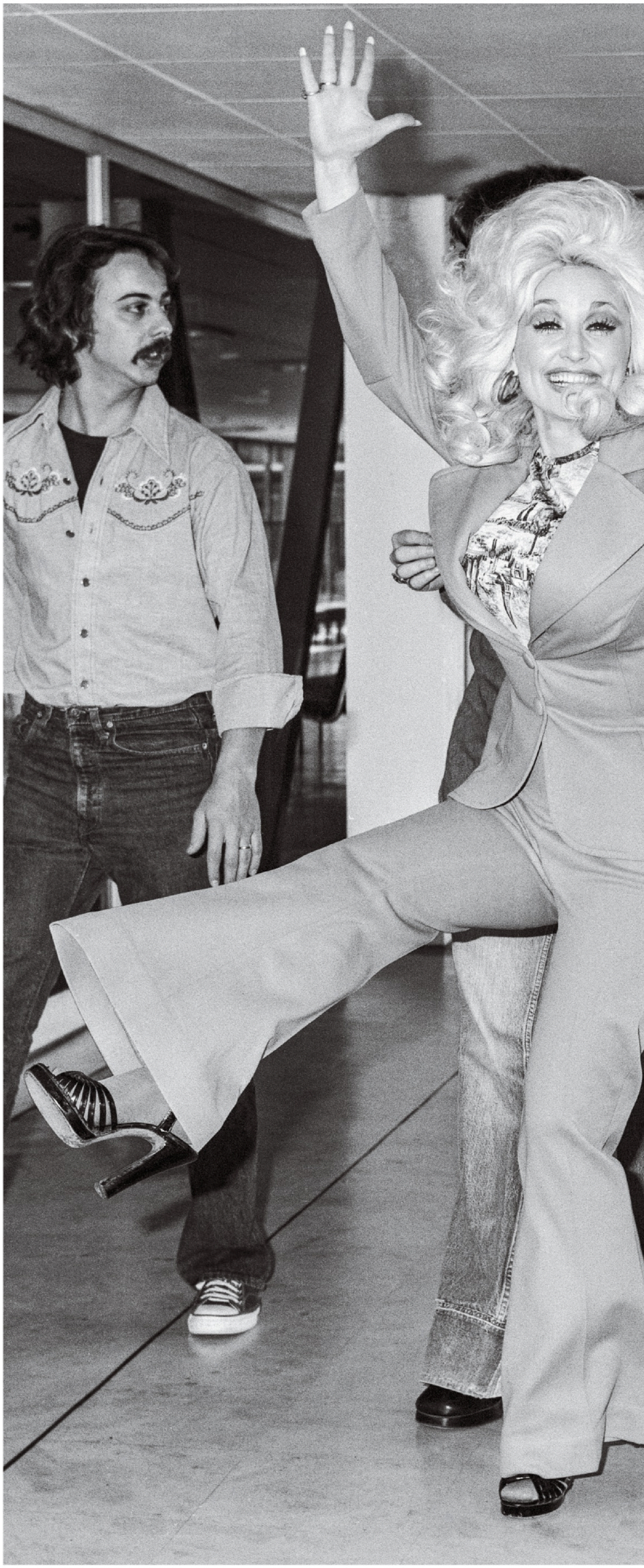
Elton John | 1982
The Rocket Man accessorized with a boom box en route to the Concorde (his preferred method of crossing the Atlantic until the planes were retired in 2003) for a flight from Heathrow to N.Y.C.

Sonny & Cher | 1966
A year after *I Got You Babe* turned them into pop superstars, the duo wore matching suits on the tarmac in Hamburg, Germany.

Miley Cyrus | 2014
"She looks like she's in her pajamas," says Peckman of the unicorn onesie the singer wore in Sydney. "People dress that way to shield themselves, but they're also creating attention."

Paul & Linda McCartney | 1971
Taking a trip a year after the Beatles disbanded, the couple (at London's Gatwick Airport with daughters Mary, left, and Heather) opted for funky over flashy.

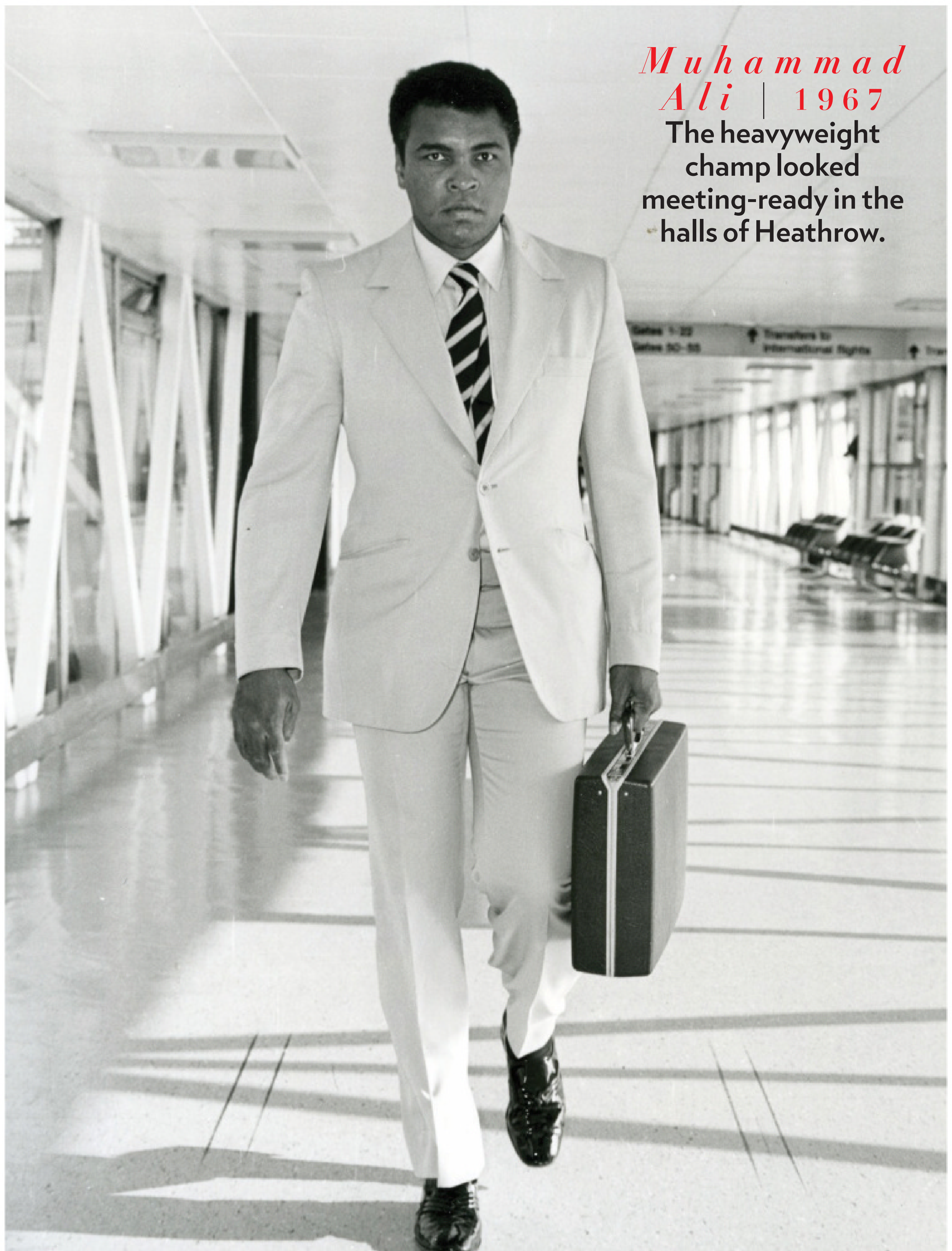
Paris Hilton | 2018
"There were so many photos of Paris at the airport—she poses in every single one," says Peckman. "Even when exiting LAX, she remembers to turn around and pose one last time before she leaves."



CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: GC IMAGES/RIZZOLI; CENTRAL PRESS/GETTY IMAGES/RIZZOLI; DAVID PARKER/ALAMY/RIZZOLI; DENNIS STONE/SHUTTERSTOCK/RIZZOLI; PICTORIAL PRESS LTD/ALAMY/RIZZOLI

Dolly Parton 1976
Postshow high, perhaps? The singer leaving London after performing at the International Festival of Country Music at Wembley Arena.

Joan Collins | 1989
Famous for her love of luxury as Alexis Carrington Colby on the nighttime soap *Dynasty,* the star took logos to a new level at Heathrow. "Carrying luggage can be a back-breaking job with me," she tweeted in 2018.



Muhammad Ali | 1967
The heavyweight champ looked meeting-ready in the halls of Heathrow.

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Telling Her Tale
Woodard believes in the power of sharing your truth. “Storytelling is healing,” she says. “All stories bring people together, even the crazy horror stories.”

Alfre Woodard

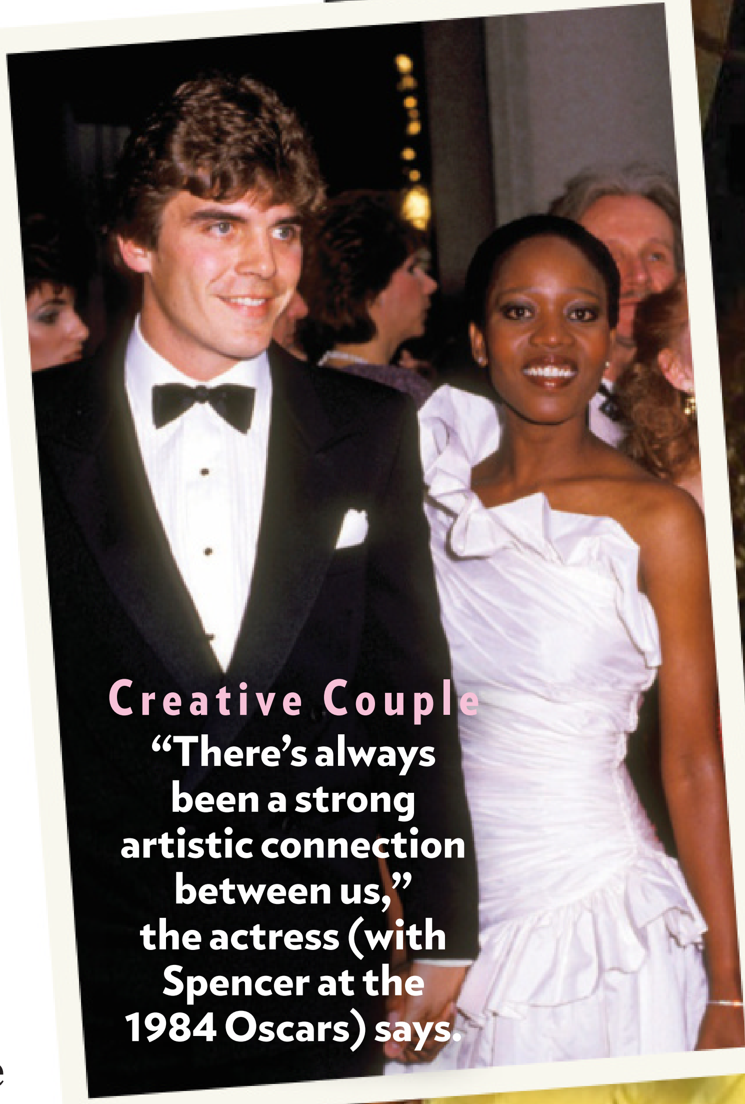
WHAT I KNOW NOW

THE SCREEN VET AND *FATHERHOOD* STAR SHARES WHAT SHE’S LEARNED ABOUT MOTHERHOOD, MARRIAGE AND CONQUERING FEAR

By **DANA ROSE FALCONE**

ART STREIBER/AUGUST

Alfre Woodard can distinctly remember laying out her future plans in her 20s. "I said, 'I want to act. I want to travel. I want to be respected,'" she recalls. The award-winning actress can certainly check all three off her list. A Tulsa native, Woodard, 68, studied acting at Boston University and broke out in a 1982 televised production of the theater piece *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow Is Enuf.* She went on to earn four Emmys, three Screen Actors Guild Awards and a Golden Globe, and in 1984 she picked up an Oscar nomination for her supporting role in *Cross Creek*. Next up she can be seen in the Netflix comedy-drama *Fatherhood* with Kevin Hart. Off camera Woodard is the proud mom to son Duncan, 27, and daughter Mavis, 30, with her husband of 37 years, screenwriter Roderick Spencer, 63. Having long ago completed her professional and personal trifecta, she's passing on lessons she's learned. "It's our responsibility to young people to be conscious of what we're putting out there—what will make them feel whole and joyful, because nobody wants to be a jerk," she says. "Everybody wants to feel namaste."



Creative Couple
"There's always been a strong artistic connection between us," the actress (with Spencer at the 1984 Oscars) says.

Working Together
Once their kids got older, Woodard says, she and Spencer had time for new projects together, like *Juanita*, the 2019 Netflix film he wrote and she starred in.

A father's love can lift you up.
The reason I feel like I have a place in the world is because my father told me I do when I was 5 years old. He told me over and over again. My father is the root of my feminism. He never implied there was anything I couldn't do. As a matter of fact, he was giving me grief if I tried to cop out and say, "Well, all the guys are probably going to be elected to the student council." [He'd say,] "Then you've got to figure out how you're going to get around them so you can be elected." Some people think of dads as muscle, but there's so much love in them.

You can tell a lot about someone by how they treat those in their inner circle.
Coupling up is just the best thing people can do. Whether it's one friend or a group of friends, we are pack animals. We do well in family. Our real family becomes the family that we choose. You know more about a person's sense of loyalty and honor by how much they recognize and love their family.

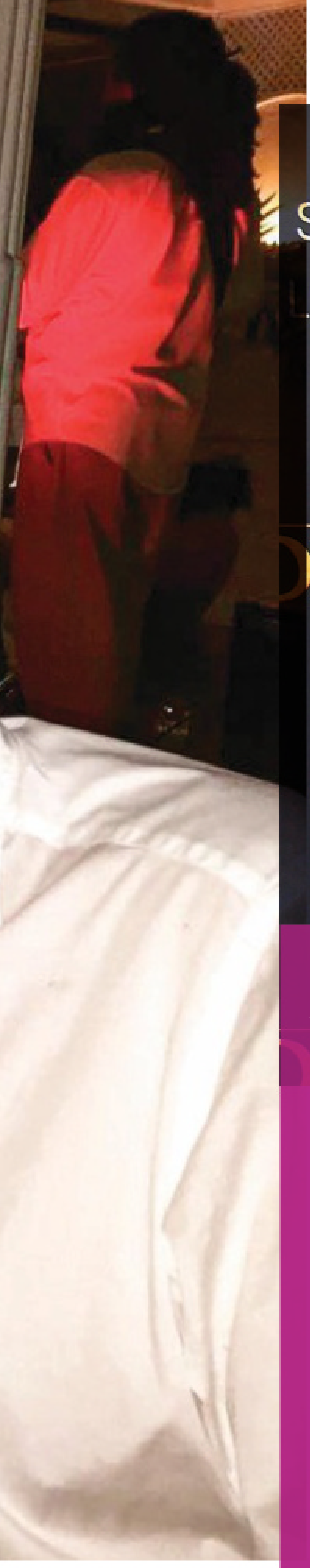
Good parenting often requires less talking and more listening.
When you're a parent, you have the opportunity to listen to see who your children are, rather than trying to dictate who they are. Our gig is to walk with them on the journey until they learn how to speak the language. They already know why they came here, instinctively and spiritually. All you're

FAME AND CRITICAL ACCLAIM

***Hill Street Blues* (1983)**
Woodard discovered her love of acting at 16, starring as a nun in a school play, and scored her first Emmy nod for the police drama.

***Desperate Housewives* (2006)**
The mom of two played new Wisteria Lane neighbor Betty Applewhite and earned an Emmy nomination.

***12 Years a Slave* (2013)**
Woodard played Harriet Shaw, the enslaved "mistress" of a plantation owner, in the Oscar-winning film.



Her Pride
"They're boss ladies and fantastic brothers out in the world," Woodard (with daughter Mavis and son Duncan at the 2019 *Lion King* premiere) says of her kids.

A GROWING LOVE

"I've been fortunate that we continue to find that we learn best together and that we work best together," Woodard says of her 37-year marriage to Spencer. They strengthened their bond when they became parents: "First it was just us and what we wanted in the world, then it was raising children," she says. "It's a great and beautiful ride every day to watch them unfold."

'Getting sucked into fame is like eating cotton candy as a nutritional diet.'

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: RON GALELLA COLLECTION/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY ALFRE WOODARD; MATT WINKELMEYER/GETTY IMAGES; EVERETT; STEVE GRANITZ/WIREIMAGE; EVERETT(2)

doing is helping them so they get the language to be able to say who they are, and they start saying it pretty early on. Whatever happened to you that you wish you had, that's what you give to a child that you are blessed enough to get to walk with.

Look around and see who needs help. Then help them.
My activism stems from the fact that my parents grew up rural. There's something about the land—it's a great equalizer. Everybody puts their crop in, and sometimes a crop fails, and that's it for that family for the entire year. It's not like you even think about it. You make sure that family is eating all year. It's just what you do when you live as a community. It's a privilege to be able to say, "I'll stand with you. I'll help you." That's what living is. And that's what enriches your life.

Queen of the Emmy Awards
The star (in 1997, when she won for *Miss Evers' Boys*) has been nominated 17 times for television's highest honor and has won four statues.

Enjoy the silence.
I learned during the pandemic how to be quiet. I realized that I hadn't stopped since I was 11 years old. We do so much planning, thinking and strategizing, but I learned how to be still. Really bright ideas will come to you when you're still. You come back with a lot more empathy and the ability to listen to other people. It makes progress possible. I meditate and pray every day—well, most days.

Use those butterflies in your belly as motivation.
They call it nervousness and stage fright. They make it negative. No, that's your fuel. That's your energy. That's your empathy. If your belly's not pumping and you're not charged up, you're going to be flat and boring. Who goes into a championship game relaxed? That's not how you do that.

Follow your internal clock.
I'm a morning person. That's when I do my best thinking. My spirit is lifted, and my attitude is cooperative. You don't want to get me working at night. You can call me at night, but I'm not making any active decisions. Even if I'm onstage, right around 9 p.m. I start to yawn, and my fellow actors look across like, "What are you doing?" But you know how you keep your mouth closed and yawn at the same time? I've perfected that.

Don't let your age get in the way of living.
We get to bop until we drop. Let somebody else look on you and say, "That person's getting older." But you've got to not live that way in your everyday. You don't turn into something else as you collect years. You turn into more. ●

The Importance of *Fatherhood*
In her new Netflix movie *Fatherhood* (streaming now), Woodard plays Kevin Hart's mother-in-law. She says the comedian wanted to show "how vital it is for men to be able to be real fathers to their children."

'I'M DEFINITELY LIVING THE DREAM'

SUMMER'S HOTTEST MOVIE SHOWCASES A 29-YEAR-OLD PRIMED FOR SUPERSTARDOM

By **ALE RUSSIAN**

Anthony Ramos was ready to quit acting before a chance outing changed his life. The Brooklyn native's drama school gave away tickets to the Broadway musical *In the Heights,* about a Latin community in New York City. Ramos, who's of Puerto Rican descent, finally saw the future he could have. "It was a little beacon of hope. I'd never seen a show where the cast looked like people I knew," he remembers. Almost a decade later, Ramos is the lead in the new movie adaptation of Lin-Manuel Miranda's musical, an acclaimed, joyful summer sensation. The show that kept his hopes alive is now set to make him Hollywood's next star. "I'm definitely living the dream," he says.

Just a few years into his career, Ramos, 29, has been at the center of multiple cultural moments. His big break came in Miranda's hit hip-hop Revolutionary War musical *Hamilton,* where he charmed audiences as John Laurens and Philip Hamilton. The performance led to a turn in 2018's *A Star Is Born* as Lady Gaga's best friend, along with roles in Spike Lee's *She's Gotta Have It* Netflix series and last year's animated *Trolls World Tour.*

His life now is a world away from his childhood in Bushwick, Brooklyn. Growing up in public hous-

HIS FIRST FAN
Ramos says he and his mom, Mildred, "were on the floor praying, thanking God when I got that call" about a full scholarship to drama school.

'THE BEST DAY I'VE EVER HAD'

When Ramos looks back at filming "Carnaval del Barrio" (above), a rousing *Heights* number in which the characters celebrate their cultures, "I tell people that was the best day I've ever had on-set in my life." For Ramos, who has said people once advised him to look more "ethnically ambiguous," it felt like "a metaphor for what life can be. It doesn't matter where you are in the world, you can be proud of where you're from."

ing with his mom, a medical biller, and two siblings, Ramos was "just trying to get by" in a family tight on money and thought baseball was his life's calling. An audition for a high school musical altered his course. "I was like, 'Man, I really am having a good time doing this.'" Feeling a "little lost" ahead of graduation, Ramos put his trust in his theater teacher Sara Steinweiss, who helped him land a spot at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. "She helped me with the audition; she paid the application fee," says Ramos, who studied on a full scholarship after Steinweiss "wrote a letter to the [Jerry] Seinfeld Scholarship Program saying, 'You need to meet this kid.'" Years later Ramos was searching for his break when *Hamilton* came knocking.

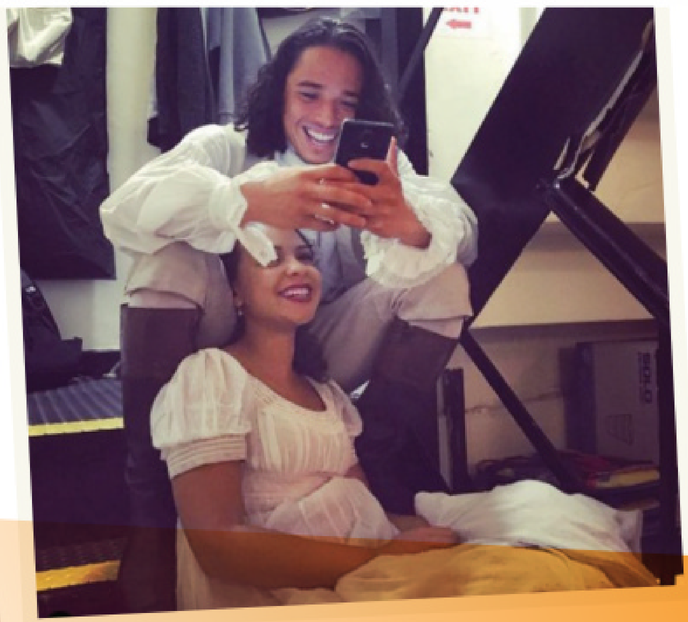
'THE STORY MEANS A LOT TO ME. I GREW UP IN A COMMUNITY LIKE THAT'

–ON *IN THE HEIGHTS*

The blockbuster musical brought him more than just success—he also fell in love. Ramos started dating *Hamilton* costar Jasmine Cephas Jones in 2014, and he proposed on Christmas Eve in 2018. "She's a rock. She's a pillar. I'm truly eternally grateful for her, man," he says, smiling.

As his career reaches a new level with *In the Heights* (in theaters and on HBO Max), Ramos, who also has an album, *Love and Lies*, out June 25, says he's "doing my best to adjust to whatever this life is going to be." If anything, the hardships of his past "help me remember, 'Yo, you got through that,'" he says. "'It's going to be okay. Everything will pan out the way it's supposed to.'" ●

THEY FOUND LOVE ON THE SET OF *HAMILTON*!



Ramos met Cephas Jones, 31, during the table read for *Hamilton*'s off-Broadway run, where Miranda later said Ramos was "sneaking glances" at the new cast member (above, backstage at the show). "She's what you hope for in a partner," he says.

COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: MACALL POLAY/WARNER BROS.; COURTESY ANTHONY RAMOS; ERICA HERNANDEZ; PRESLEY ANN/GETTY IMAGES

double talk

CHRIS PRATT & YVONNE STRAHOVSKI

Super

BATTLING ALIENS IN THEIR FILM *THE TOMORROW WAR*, THE COSTARS BONDED OVER THE JOYS OF HAVING KIDS

By **KARA WARNER**

A Blockbuster with Heart
Pratt says developing his character in *The Tomorrow War* (inset, streaming July 2 on Prime Video) helped him realize that "parents are just kids who had kids."

Chris Pratt knew he had the perfect costar in Yvonne Strahovski when she nailed a scary stunt on her second day filming their new Amazon sci-fi thriller The Tomorrow War. *"She had to climb to the top of this 300-ft. power plant and catwalk across it," recalls Pratt, 42. "I had vertigo. I was freaking out, and she nailed it right away."* Handmaid's Tale *actress Strahovski, 38, admits she wasn't quite that calm. "I think I pooped my pants," she jokes. Pratt, who welcomed daughter Lyla with wife Katherine Schwarzenegger last August and is dad to son Jack, 9, with ex-wife Anna Faris, and Strahovski, who is mom to son William, 2, with her actor husband, Tim Loden, say they can't wait to someday watch the film with their kids. "I'm excited to show Lyla the movie. She was conceived on this set," says Pratt. "I'll probably show it to her right when it comes out," he jokes. "She's old enough to get it, right?"*

What impressed you about each other?

CHRIS PRATT Yvonne had her son with her [during filming]. Seeing her transform from killing aliens and doing amazing stunts and then being like, "Hold on, I have to go pump" was really cool. She was absolutely smashing a brutal action hero [role] and then turning that off and being this amazing maternal figure.

VERA ANDERSON/WIREIMAGE

Parents!

YVONNE STRAHOVSKI I mean, everyone in the world knows you as such a hero. But this film, the character and our dynamic required a real, beautiful connection, and Chris made it so easy.

How did you connect to your characters?

STRAHOVSKI Being in my first year of motherhood, on that unknown path of discovering yourself as a mom, is pretty relatable to the character of Romeo Command. She has the weight of the world on her shoulders as a scientist and has to figure out how to save the human race, essentially.

PRATT My character has a contentious relationship with his father. It's impossible for me to do these types of roles without diving into some of the turmoil of my own relationships. This is a film about redemption, second chances and coming to grips with the fact that maybe you're a lot more like your dad than you've ever realized. It's finding grace and forgiveness for your father and yourself.

What are you enjoying the most about parenthood these days?

STRAHOVSKI The silver lining of the pandemic has been the time with my son and being there for every little thing. That's been a real gift.

PRATT Katherine's entire pregnancy and birth was in the heart of this pandemic. Going to the doctor's appointments alone and wearing the mask while you're trying to give birth—it's intense. I have all the respect in the world for her. She handled it like a champion. She's been such a great mom. My daughter is such a little wiggle worm. She's teething, and there's this little rubber comb that she chews on to soothe her gums. I started brushing her hair with it and could see her relax into my lap. The only other time she's really ever done that is when she's peeing on me. ●

CELESTE SLOMAN/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX; INSET: FRANK MASI/AMAZON STUDIOS

A NEW END-OF-LIFE CHOICE: HUMAN COMPOSTING

A Green

As he lay dying of throat cancer last fall, Robert Cantisano faced what he felt was one of the most essential decisions of his life: What should be done with his body when he died? An organic farmer and activist known in his Northern California community as Amigo Bob, Cantisano was a passionate advocate for green growing, so when he heard about a Seattle company called Recompose that could turn a human body into compost, "his eyes sparked up," says his wife, Jenifer Bliss. "He was an expert in making compost, so it was a perfect fit."

Three days after Amigo Bob died at the age of 69 on Dec. 26—and following an at-home wake and blessing—Bliss sent his body to Recompose. Twelve weeks later she drove a pickup truck from their farm in Nevada City, Calif., to Seattle to collect the cubic yard of compost made from Amigo Bob's remains. "I touched it and felt comforted," says Bliss. "His spirit went on to greater things, and his body did too. By becoming compost, he's continuing to nurture life."

Returning his body to the earth was a meaningful end for the farmer, but until last year the process known officially as natural organic reduction was illegal in every state, where death choices have been limited to burial or cremation, both of which have substantial environmental costs (see sidebar).

er Grave

KATRINA SPADE IS ON A MISSION TO OFFER A MORE ECO-FRIENDLY OPTION IN DEATH CARE: TURNING BODIES INTO SOIL

By **EILEEN FINAN**

Final Act "People are choosing to return to the natural cycle," says Spade (at the Recompose facility in Seattle; the container in front of her—here filled with only wood chips and grass—holds bodies during composting).

Laying the Groundwork

Soil Study
In 2015 Spade began to test the decomposition process on donated bodies with help from scientists like Western Carolina University professor Cheryl Johnston (above, monitoring soil temperature with Spade).

The Vessel
A body (not pictured), along with wood chips, alfalfa and straw, is placed in an 8x4-ft. steel tube that rotates. In 30 days microbes break down even teeth and bones.

That, however, is quickly changing: In 2020 Washington became the first state to allow the practice, and this spring Colorado and Oregon passed laws following suit. New York and California have both introduced natural organic reduction bills that are likely to pass in the next year. The growing composting movement is the realization of a decade-long dream for Katrina Spade, the founder of Recompose, the country's first human-composting funeral home, who pioneered the process and is leading the push to legalize it. "I wondered, 'What if we had a choice for death care that helps the planet rather than harms it?'" says Spade. "To know the last gesture you'll make will be gentle and beneficial just feels like the right thing to do."

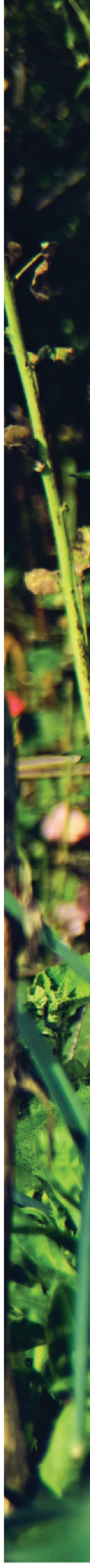
•••

Growing up on a small farm in rural Plainfield, N.H., "we grew our own vegetables, we composted everything, and we were always frank about death and dying," recalls Spade, 43, the daughter of a physician and a physician's assistant. "Because my parents were in medicine, we talked about it with a comfort level that was a little atypical of U.S. families."

That easy relationship with mortality was given a jolt after she had her sons Riley, now 16, and Kale, 13, whom she shares with her partner Rania, a social media consultant. "Having small children growing up fast, I had an epiphany: 'Someday I'll be 70!' I started to get curious about what would happen to my body when I died." Cremation was the default in her family, "but it seemed like a waste to incinerate a body." Natural burial, in which unembalmed remains are placed directly into the ground in a shroud or biodegradable casket, was appealing, but by then she was a city dweller far from open land. "The question for me became, 'What would an urban equivalent of a natural burial be?'"

Her answer began to take shape when she was a graduate student in architecture at the University of Massachusetts. A friend who knew she was searching for a thesis topic and curious about death care mentioned the fact that some farmers dispose of cow carcasses by composting them. "I thought, 'Perfect! If you can compost a cow, you can probably compost a human.'"

By 2017 Spade's research project had become Recompose, but while the company attracted high-profile investors like *The Handmaid's Tale* au-

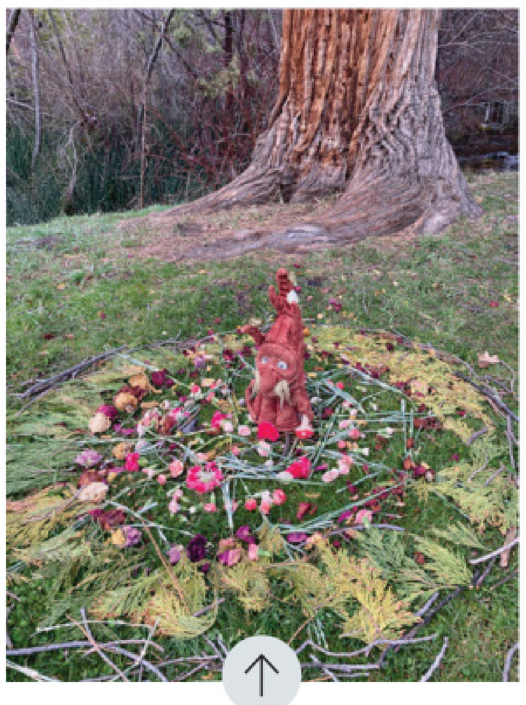


One Man's Journey Back to the Earth

'A Champion for the Earth'
Organic farmer and activist "Amigo Bob" Cantisano (with puppet and teaching aid Woodsy) died of cancer on Dec. 26.

Ready to Recompose
Cantisano's body arrived at Seattle's Recompose facility in a cardboard casket decorated by family and friends reading, "He loved the Earth so much that he wanted to be composted."

Transformation
Two months later his remains had turned into 1 cubic yard of nutrient-rich soil. Seeing it "was a profound moment," says his widow, Jenifer Bliss.



Resting Places
Bliss scattered some compost near the Sacramento River headwaters and other locations and brought the rest to their farm.

At Peace
"His body is nourishing new life," says Bliss (at home with Amigo Bob's compost in June). "I know he's happy about it."

PREVIOUS SPREAD: THE SEATTLE TIMES

A Natural Fit "It's a truly meaningful choice," says Spade. "That's what's allowed me to put my heart and soul into it. I believe it gives real comfort to people."

thor Margaret Atwood, it took two years of lobbying by Spade and her team for the state to pass the law allowing them to open. And it wasn't without bumps. Catholic groups in Washington and other states have spoken out against natural organic reduction saying it doesn't promote human dignity, with the New York Catholic Conference arguing the practice is "more appropriate for vegetable trimmings and eggshells than for human bodies."

That doesn't faze Linda Wolf, who was one of the first 775 people to prepay the $5,500 composting fee to hold a spot with Recompose. "There's nothing creepy about it," says Wolf, 76, a semiretired psychoanalyst in Seattle. "I love the idea—go out with a bang and contribute to the Earth."

On Dec. 20 Recompose began composting its first clients, and to date 25 bodies have been fully transformed to soil. "I don't think it will ever become less amazing to me that this works," Spade says. Since the Washington law passed, several composting competitors have opened in the state—a development Spade says she welcomes: "There's a climate crisis looming, and we need more than one operator offering this." After all, while Recompose is planning three new locations (Colorado, California and a second in Seattle), the current facility can only compost 10 bodies at a time. Each body, which must remain unembalmed (bodies can be refrigerated prior to composting to allow for viewing) is placed in a steel cylinder and set in a beehive-like structure. Natural microbes begin decomposition, raising temperatures inside the vessels to 150 degrees—"a hallelujah moment," Spade says. "It's nature doing its work."

> 'You become dark, rich soil that can help a forest grow'
> —KATRINA SPADE

After about two months the body has turned to mulch, and the compost is aerated and ready to be distributed. Families typically donate most of the compost to a nearby wilderness area that partners with the company and receive 64 ounces of compost ("genuinely good for your garden," says Spade) to spread themselves. "When you hand over that box of ready-to-create-life-again soil, it's really something," says Spade. "You can't be a human forever, and that can be a little terrifying. But this way you rejoin the natural cycle, and to me that's incredibly beautiful." ●

THE PRICE OF DYING

End-of-life choices carry both financial and environmental costs

Cremation
Average price: $5,000.
Most Americans (56 percent) say they plan to be cremated, a process that releases more than 1.7 billion lbs. of CO_2 in the U.S. annually.

Traditional Burial
Average price: $9,000.
Burials put more than 4 million gallons of embalming fluid in the ground each year in the U.S.

Human Composting
Average price: $5,500.
Composting uses only one eighth the energy used in burial or cremation.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MIKE BELLEME/NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX; THE SEATTLE TIMES; IAN ALLEN; COURTESY JENIFER BLISS(S)

Proud Girl Dad
"Every day my girls surprise and amaze me," says Ludacris (at home in Atlanta on May 26). Inset: with wife Eudoxie and daughters Cadence, Karma and Cai.

Ludacris

'I'M LOVING EVERY MINUTE *of* FATHERHOOD'

THE RAPPER AND ACTOR GETS REAL ABOUT RAISING STRONG DAUGHTERS, FINDING LASTING LOVE AND PREPARING FOR BABY NO. 4

By **BRIANNE TRACY**

Photographs by **LYNSEY WEATHERSPOON**

Ludacris is trying very hard to be the man of the house. But over a Zoom call from the game room of his Atlanta home, the rapper turned movie star readily admits he's often overpowered. "There's a lot of estrogen around here!" he says with a laugh as his wife, Eudoxie (who's pregnant with their second child), their daughter Cadence, 6, and his daughters from previous relationships, Cai, 7, and Karma, 19, take photos for their *People* shoot. "Luckily I have 22 acres of land, so I'm able to step outside and clear my head every now and then. Then when I come back in, I'm loving them and hugging them the same way as if I went out of town." As the COVID-19 pandemic put the world on hold, Ludacris (born

Christopher Bridges), 43, spent more time with his girls at home than ever before. "It's been a great break," he says. "Family has always been my No. 1 focus, but, of course, I have to get out there and provide for them. This past year has made me focused on figuring out businesses that allow me to work while also spending more time with my family."

Ludacris's world changed forever when he welcomed Karma in 2001, shortly after releasing his debut major-label studio album *Back for the First Time,* which shot him to stardom with his hits "Southern Hospitality" and "What's Your Fantasy." "I had just started coming into money," says Ludacris, who spent the years prior to the album's release interning and deejaying at a radio station in Atlanta, his hometown: "I was in a good place mentally, spiritually and financially, so I was prepared for fatherhood." Being a dad came easy for Ludacris, but he found balancing it with life on the road more difficult. "I wanted to be with Karma at all times, but obviously because of my schedule and her being so young, I couldn't," he says. "I made a lot of sacrifices." While his second major album, 2001's *Word of Mouf,* and his role in several of the *Fast & Furious* movies as ace mechanic Tej Parker (he's back in *F9,* in theaters June 25) propelled him further to fame, he relished every moment with his firstborn. He'll never forget when Karma learned to read a sentence for the first time. "I was driving, and she was in the back seat. When I heard her slowly trying to put the words together, I started tearing up," he says of his daughter, who's now studying filmmaking at Spelman College. He adds with a grin: "Most rappers wouldn't admit that!"

'I DON'T THINK ANYONE IS A PERFECT PARENT, BUT I STRIVE TO BE THE BEST I CAN BE'

LUDA'S LADIES

Whirlwind Wedding
Ludacris and Eudoxie got engaged and married on the same day in 2014. "All I think about is how happy I made her," he says.

Luda-Christmas
"We have so much fun during the holidays," says Ludacris, wearing matching pajamas in a 2016 photo with Eudoxie, Cadence, Karma, Cai and Mimi.

Ludacris embraced his role as a girl dad as he welcomed two more daughters: Cai in 2013 and Cadence in 2015. "The more girls I had, the more I tried to be a protector," he says. "I want to make sure that I prepare them for the world. I also want to make sure that they don't get their hearts broken, and if they do, that I'm the first person they come crying to."

These days Ludacris's daughters inspire his work. In June 2020 he launched KidNation, an online platform that aims to educate kids on

TRIPLE-THREAT STAR

Movies
Ludacris (above, with Tyrese Gibson in *F9*) joined the *Fast & Furious* franchise in 2003's *2 Fast 2 Furious* (left, with late costar Paul Walker). Right: He won a Screen Actors Guild Award as part of the cast of *Crash* in 2006.

Music
He returned to the stage in May to perform live in front of a crowd in Miami. This summer, he says, "I have a lot of shows lined up."

COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM TOP: DONNA PARMELL; COURTESY CHRIS BRIDGES; SNAP STILLS/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK; UNIVERSAL STUDIOS; DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/WIREIMAGE; JOHN PARRA/GETTY IMAGES; NETFLIX

In Perfect Harmony
"All of our relationships are great, and our bond continues to get stronger and stronger," says Ludacris (with, clockwise from left, Eudoxie and his daughters Karma, Cadence and Cai).

topics from health to current events through catchy songs, all of which need the seal of approval from his daughters. "They're the perfect test group," he says. Up next: a new Netflix animated series, *Karma's World,* coming this fall. Inspired by his oldest daughter, "*Karma's World* is a coming-of-age story about a young girl finding her voice," he says. "Once you have kids, your outlook on life changes. You realize you have to educate the next generation."

Ludacris admits he's a total "softy" when it comes to his kids—"when they look at me with those puppy-dog eyes, I just melt," he says—so it's usually Eudoxie who has to step in as the firm hand. He started dating the philanthropist from Gabon, Africa, in 2009. "I loved how passionate she was about her goals. And obviously she's beautiful. She checked all the boxes," he says of his wife, whose sister [Mimi], 18, has become like another daughter to him. Ludacris proposed on Dec. 24, 2014, and he and Eudoxie, 35, wed during a surprise ceremony he planned at their home just hours later. "I felt like I sowed all of my royal oats," he jokes. "I was mature enough to become a husband. We are stronger together."

Ludacris hopes that united front serves him and Eudoxie well as the arrival of their second child draws closer. They're keeping the sex of the baby a surprise but will be happy whether they have a boy or another girl. "It sounds cliché, but whatever the Most High wants to give us is what I'm going to be happiest with," he says. "I know that all of the good things going on in my life right now would not have happened unless I had all girls up to this point." Until they welcome their baby, they'll be savoring their last moments as a family of five. "Every day with my girls is something different," says Ludacris, "and I'm loving every minute of fatherhood." ●

TV
He created and executive-produces the animated Netflix series *Karma's World,* streaming this fall.

Scan this QR code with your phone's camera to watch *People Features: Ludacris* on PeopleTV.

(EUDOXIE & KARMA) HAIR: AIDA TECHILO; (KARMA) MAKEUP: DENIKKA DANYELL/ZENOBIA AGENCY; (CADENCE, CAI) HAIR: DENIKKA DANYELL/ZENOBIA AGENCY; (CHRIS) GROOMING: DENIKKA DANYELL/ZENOBIA AGENCY

Natural Performer
Moreno (left, in 1954) says her love of dance began when she was six. "I use up a lot of energy, I'm a very energetic person. I think that's just the way my body works."

The Unstoppable Rita Moreno

AT 89, THE PIONEERING SCREEN LEGEND HAS NO PLANS TO SLOW DOWN. SHE REFLECTS ON A LIFE OF TRAUMA AND TRIUMPH AND WHY SHE'S THE HAPPIEST SHE'S EVER BEEN

By **KARA WARNER**

On a sunny day in May, Rita Moreno, 89, is sitting on her plant-filled patio at home in Berkeley, Calif., telling a story about her daughter Fernanda Gordon Fisher, 54, when something stops her mid-sentence. “Listen! Listen! Isn’t that sound gorgeous?” she asks, referring to the rustling of leaves in a nearby tree. “It’s the sound of Earth,” she says, as a smile spreads across her face.

Savoring life’s simple pleasures is something the groundbreaking Puerto Rican actress, who won an Oscar for playing Anita in 1961’s *West Side Story*—and has a role in the upcoming Steven Spielberg adaptation of the musical—has learned to do over the years. “I worry and stress a lot less now because I’m so grateful,” she says. “I stop and smell the roses.”

But after seven decades in Hollywood—yes, *seven*—she’s taking on her bravest role yet in a revealing new documentary, *Rita Moreno: Just a Girl Who Decided to Go For It*. “I made a promise to myself that I was going to be as truthful as possible. There are things that I told that surprised me,” she says. In the film (now in theaters), Moreno addresses several past traumas: being raped by her agent early in her career, her volatile relationship with Marlon Brando, which

FROM LEFT: DAVID SUTTON/MPTV; JEFF LIPSKY/CPI SYNDICATION

led to a suicide attempt in 1961, and the unhappiness she felt in her 45-year marriage to cardiologist Leonard Gordon, who died in 2010. "I never had the courage to leave. I just didn't, mostly because of Fernanda," she admits. Moreno says watching the completed documentary was eye-opening for her. "I've had adventures, and things have gone badly for me many times. But somehow, out of the ashes, I've learned to love me."

•••

Born Rosita Dolores Alvario in Juncos, Puerto Rico, to Rosa Maria Marcano, a seamstress, and Francisco José "Paco" Alvario, a farmer, Moreno was 5 years old when she and her mother left their home for New York City in 1936. Moreno's mother was just 22 and decided she had "had enough of her unfaithful husband and her old life," Moreno wrote in her 2013 memoir. "She was young and needed to change her fortune, find her own work and a new way." Moreno would go on to do the same. After arriving in New York, she felt terribly homesick but soon found an escape through dance when she started training with renowned Spanish dancer Paco Cansino (Rita Hayworth's uncle) at age 6. Three years later she booked her first professional gig at a nightclub in Greenwich Village and began performing at bar mitzvahs and clubs around New York City. She lent her voice to radio plays and dubbed actresses in Spanish-language films before booking her first film role, in *So Young, So Bad,* which led to a studio contract with MGM. She took her stage name, Moreno, from her mother's second husband, Edward Moreno, because "nobody could pronounce 'Alvario' correctly," she said. Despite her successes, Moreno was often frustrated with being typecast in stereotypical, accented "island and native girl" roles for years before and after her Oscar win for *West Side Story* (for which her skin was darkened with makeup). One exception was her small role as movie star Zelda Zanders in 1952's *Singin' in the Rain.*

Looking back, Moreno is proud to have broken down barriers while reaching the pinnacles of her profession: She's one of the small club of EGOT (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, Tony) winners. "I didn't have mentors. You really had to make it on your own.

1962

2018

Making Oscar History

With her dynamic turn as Anita, Maria's confidante in *West Side Story,* Moreno became the first Latina to win an Academy Award. Above: Moreno in the film and with costar George Chakiris and Oscar presenter Rock Hudson. She was the talk of the Oscars again in 2018 when she rewore her 1962 dress. "I had it redone in the back and had panniers put in so it had this beautiful bell jar look," she says. "One girl on Twitter said that I looked like a pincushion, which made me laugh and laugh. I just gave it to the Museum of Film."

Her Most Meaningful Roles

***Singin' in the Rain* (1952)**
Moreno says she cherishes this role because "Gene Kelly put me in the part of a white movie star, Zelda Zanders, without even thinking twice."

***The Night of the Following Day* (1969)**
Moreno says filming this thriller with Brando, "the lust of my life," years after their relationship ended helped give her some closure.

***The Electric Company* (1971-77)**
Moreno (with Morgan Freeman) says the kids' show "was fun while it was being brilliant." Fans still recite her catchphrase: "Hey, you guys!"

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: UNITED ARTISTS/KOBAL/SHUTTERSTOCK; BETTMANN/GETTY IMAGES; JEFF LIPSKY/CPI SYNDICATION; KCR/SHUTTERSTOCK; ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS; MICHAEL YARISH/NETFLIX; PHOTOFEST; UNIVERSAL/KOBAL/SHUTTERSTOCK; MGM; DAVID FISHER/SHUTTERSTOCK

A Special Bond
Moreno and daughter Fernanda in 2019. "She's an incredibly unique person with incredible energy," says Fernanda.

'Regrets are a waste of time…when there's so much beauty and love and humor in this world'

I think it has a great deal to do with resilience," says the actress. She credits therapy for helping get her through tough times, particularly her tumultuous relationship with Brando, whom she met on the set of *Desiree* in 1954 and dated for several years. "He broke my heart and came close to crushing my very spirit with his physical infidelities and worse, with his emotional betrayals," she wrote in her memoir. "With therapy, I learned one important lesson: If you're not liked, you're not going to die from that."

•••

Today Moreno loves spending time with Fernanda, a jewelry designer, and her two grandsons, Cameron, 20, and Justin, 22. "They are my heart and soul. Family is what keeps me alive and happy," she says. "Regrets are a waste of time. To waste precious time on them, especially as you get older, is truly obscene, when there's so much beauty and love and humor in this world." Moreno is already thinking up themes for her 90th-birthday party in December and has several acting gigs lined up. Although she thanks "good genes" for her longevity, she says the secret to staying young is simply to keep laughing. "You have to have a sense of humor about yourself or you're f-----!" Moreno says being able to listen to music and watch the sun set over the San Francisco Bay is better than any Hollywood award. "My idea of success shifts all the time, because there's nothing steady about it," she says. Her sunsets, however, "are pink and orange, without fail. What's not to love, for a little Puerto Rican girl?" ●

***One Day at a Time* (2017-20)**
Moreno (with Justine Machado) loved playing "theatrical" grandma Lydia in the uplifting Netflix revival.

Just a Girl Who Decided to Go For It
Moreno was "amazed" by the finished cut of her documentary, directed by Mariem Pérez Riera. "After it was over, I said, 'Oh my God. I've had quite a life.'"

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Adjusting to a 'New Normal'

WITH MASK MANDATES LIFTED FOR THE FULLY VACCINATED AND SOME LONG-SHUTTERED BUSINESSES REOPENING, AMERICANS ARE ENJOYING THE START OF LIFE AFTER THE PANDEMIC. HERE'S WHAT TO KNOW NOW

As Americans fill sports arenas, crowd restaurants and pack airline flights, life in the U.S. is starting to look like pre-pandemic times again. Here, Dr. William Schaffner, professor of preventive medicine and infectious diseases at Vanderbilt University, talks about the latest COVID-19 news and the challenges that lie ahead.

As the country opens up, how careful do fully vaccinated people need to be?
The average person, with no underlying medical conditions, can largely go anywhere without a mask. But the CDC is still cautious, as am I, about large group gatherings. Even if it's a big outdoor ball game or country fair, I'd still wear a mask because you're encountering so many people, some of whom are unvaccinated. Remember, the vaccines are 95 percent effective, not 100 percent. And if you're older or immunocompromised, even if you're vaccinated, you should remain careful. When 90 percent of Americans are fully vaccinated, we can relax. But we're nowhere near there.

The Delta variant is easily transmitted and has been spreading fast. How worried should we be?
It's notable, and it reemphasizes the need for people to get vaccinated. It will keep increasing in the United States, but if you get infected and you're vaccinated, you're much more likely to have a milder illness.

Will we need booster shots?
That will depend on the duration of protection from the current vaccine—which is beyond six months, but how far beyond we don't know yet. The other issue will be if we start seeing variants that evade the current vaccines; then, like the flu, we'll have to create a new vaccine that covers them.

DINING OUT AGAIN
A masked server delivers food to diners in Redondo Beach, Calif.

'THIS IS A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE; WHAT YOU DO AFFECTS THOSE AROUND YOU'
—DR. WILLIAM SCHAFFNER

There are reports of women having irregular periods after the vaccine. Is that a concern?
So far, I've seen nothing to indicate that the COVID vaccine affects reproductive health in any way. And the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the FDA and the CDC are watching that like a hawk. Unless someone is bleeding very heavily, it should not cause worry—and should revert to normal in one or two cycles.

What about reports that some people developed heart inflammation after getting the vaccine?
It does look as though there's an increased rate of this inflammation of the heart among young adults, particularly males, who have received COVID vaccines. But it's rare, it's generally pretty mild—and the vast majority of people get better very quickly. You have to compare it to COVID, which can produce this very same illness at a much higher rate.

—JULIE MAZZIOTTA

TEAM EFFORT
Earlier this month Chicago White Sox fans were offered two free game tickets for receiving the vaccine.

FROM TOP: JAY L. CLENDENIN/LOS ANGELES TIMES/GETTY IMAGES; SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

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VAL CHMERKOVSKIY & JENNA JOHNSON'S L.A. OASIS

TARZANA, CALIF.

Design Partner "Our process for creating our home is kind of similar to choreographing a dance," says Chmerkovskiy. "It's challenging, but it's so rewarding."

A Dance Duo's Dreamy Digs

THE *DANCING WITH THE STARS* COUPLE OPENS UP ABOUT CREATING THEIR 'COZY' FIRST HOME—AND WHY IT'S THE PERFECT PLACE TO START A FAMILY

By CHRISTINA DUGAN *Photographs by* LARSEN&TALBERT

HAIR: BRADLEY LEAKE; MAKEUP: LYNDSAY ZAVITZ; PROP STYLIST: WANTED PD

Outside Interests
"Having a pool and a backyard was a must for me," Chmerkovskiy says. "We love to have people over and entertain."

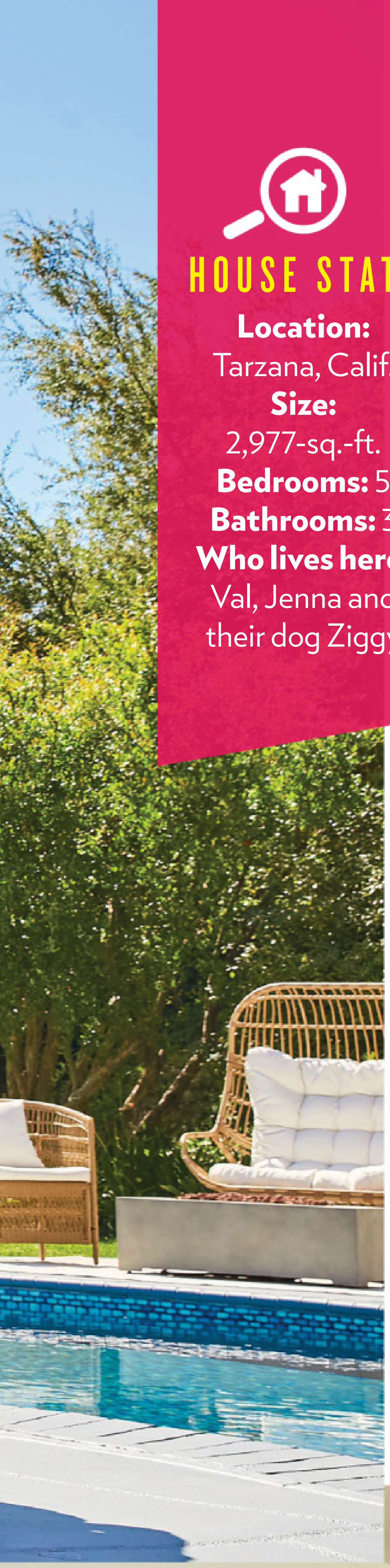
'Jenna made this house a home — I appreciate her touch'
—VAL CHMERKOVSKIY

Trophy Life
"We wanted it here so everyone could see!" Johnson says of her Mirrorball, which she won with Olympic skater Adam Rippon, displayed in the family room.

Shortly after celebrating their one-year wedding anniversary in April 2020, *Dancing with the Stars* pros Val Chmerkovskiy and Jenna Johnson decided they were ready to make their next big move—into their first house together. The couple, who met on the ABC competition show and began dating in 2017, picked out a charming 2,977-sq.-ft. pad tucked away in a quiet neighborhood of Tarzana, Calif., with plenty of natural light, a spacious backyard and what Chmerkovskiy, 35, dubbed "good vibes" overall. "I absolutely fell in love," says Johnson, 27. "It just had all of those little things that I hoped and dreamed about." But outfitting their new home presented some unique challenges for the pair. "We're very indecisive, so there were a lot of negotiations involved," Chmerkovskiy explains of their initial attempt at decorating together. "We stared at coffee tables for two weeks!" says Johnson. They also had very different ideas of how to fill the space: "I'm more sentimental," Chmerkovskiy admits. "There could be something that is completely mismatched, but I want to put it up because there's a story behind it." Johnson, however, is hyperorganized: "It needs to make sense," she insists. "And have a purpose and an intention."

If their *DWTS* wins (he has two Mirrorball trophies, she has one) taught them anything, it's to know when to seek the guidance of a pro. The couple turned to Havenly designer Heather Goerzen to help them select pieces that fit both of their design ethos.

Moving in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic meant they were also involved in all the "dirty work," hanging curtains and installing furniture themselves, says Johnson. "We had to put it all together, which has been an experience. I'm so proud of us for doing it, making it happen." Jokes Chmerkovskiy: "We improvised some things." Quarantine also gave the newlyweds something



HOUSE STATS

Location: Tarzana, Calif.
Size: 2,977-sq.-ft.
Bedrooms: 5
Bathrooms: 3
Who lives here: Val, Jenna and their dog Ziggy

Sizzling in the Kitchen

"We decided to do a lot of dance videos in here," says Johnson of the airy cook space. "A lot of stuff that we choreographed for *Dancing with the Stars* this season!"

The Height of Style

"Aesthetically, it's just everything that I dreamed," Johnson says of the living room, which was curated by Havenly designer Heather Goerzen. "It exceeded all of our expectations."

Display of Affection

The duo framed nine of their favorite photos that "celebrate their love" in the den. "We call it the 'Val and Jenna Shrine' to show how humble we are," jokes Chmerkovskiy.

'My favorite room is the kitchen. We cook there, we eat there, and we dance there'
—JENNA JOHNSON

Head Over Heels
"Jenna has incredible taste," says Chmerkovskiy (with their dog Ziggy) of Johnson.

Scan this QR code with your phone's camera to watch *Hollywood at Home: Val Chmerkovskiy and Jenna Johnson* on PeopleTV.

Bright and Beautiful
"It just feels vibrant and alive," Chmerkovskiy says of what drew them to the space.

they'd never experienced before: a normal domestic life. "COVID allowed us time to be humans, not just artists, not performers, not working all the time," he says. "We've spent the last six years on the road. This happened exactly when it needed to happen. Everything we've done in this home, *we've* done."

Now, as they settle into their "farmhouse-meets-modern-meets-rustic" crib, they're looking forward to the possibilities that lie ahead. "What's great about this place is that it's going to continue to get better because there are still corners of this house that we haven't done," says Chmerkovskiy. "And one huge corner is the room where, even when we first saw the house, we were like, 'Oh, this is the baby's room.'" But right now? "It's covered in boxes," he says with a laugh. "It's our storage room." In the meantime, Chmerkovskiy and Johnson are enjoying their "cozy" space (with their pup Ziggy) and remain grateful for the life they're building together. "This is definitely a home that we're comfortable starting our family in," he says. "There's a lot of heart here. It's not perfect and there's a lot of things that still could change and grow, but it's ours—and it's perfect for us." ●

GET THE LOOK

Mango Wood Links, **$61**
effortless composition.com

Wicker Egg Chair, **$400**
walmart.com

Arren Brass Light, **$100**
crateandbarrel.com

Artificial Olive Tree, **$150**
target.com

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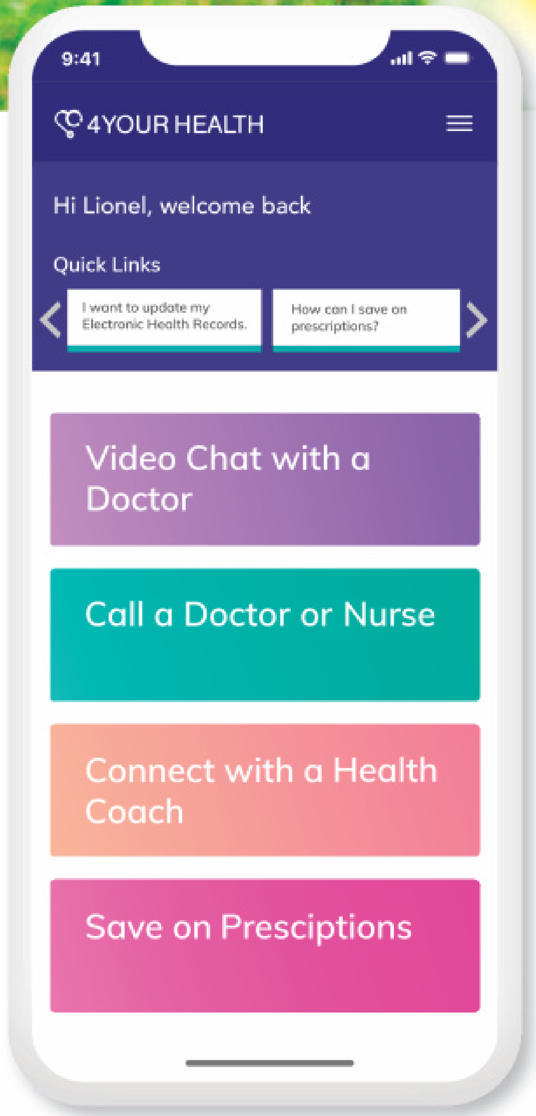

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Hosted by
PEOPLE Editor-at-Large
JANINE RUBENSTEIN

Sara Bareilles

What My Life's *Really* Like

THE SINGER AND ACTRESS OPENS UP ABOUT FEELING GOOD IN HER SKIN (AND JEANS!) AND ALWAYS TRYING NEW THINGS *By* **BRIANNE TRACY**

"I think feeling beautiful is an internal state. Then the inside informs the outside"

Piano Woman
"Art is food for the soul," says Bareilles (performing a benefit show June 5 in N.Y.C.).

This Is 40-ish
"There's so much to celebrate," Bareilles (in an Instagram post for her last birthday) says of getting older.

(PERFORMANCE) ANGELA WEISS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Meditation transformed me…
I meditate every morning for at least 15 or 20 minutes. I first got into it after reading *When Things Fall Apart* by Pema Chödrön. A dear friend gave it to me while I was going through a really bad breakup, and it taught me about sitting with what is uncomfortable. With meditation I find everything about my life improves: my health, my sleep, my habits, my emotional state and my energy.

Life is a work in progress…
My boyfriend [actor Joe Tippett] and I moved into our new apartment in New York City in December. It's still a work in progress, which is one of the things I have been thinking about from a meditative sense. Like, I got a new couch, and I hate it. I waited months and months for it and was so excited, but then when it arrived, I lay down on it, and I was like, "I hate this." But I'm trying to hold it all lightly to leave space for what matters right now.

I try to be gentle with myself…
With *Girls5eva* I have to be in front of the camera again. It's brought up a lot of stuff for me because I have struggled with body image issues my whole life. I'll turn 42 in December, and I'm trying to embrace that my body doesn't do what it used to. Ultimately, whether one pair of jeans fits or not, I can still enjoy the world and the people I love.

***Waitress* changed everything…**
I still get "She Used to Be Mine" [from the Broadway musical Bareilles wrote] stuck in my head. I love singing that song. It's really surreal at times to look at where I started and where I am now. I feel fortunate to have gotten to work in a lot of different mediums—I always want to try new things. Animation is

Girl Gang
Bareilles had a "beautiful experience" filming the new Peacock series *Girls5eva* (streaming now) with castmates (from left) Busy Philipps, Paula Pell and Renée Elise Goldsberry.

DAILY STATS

Alarm set for…
8:30 a.m., but I can easily sleep in until 11.

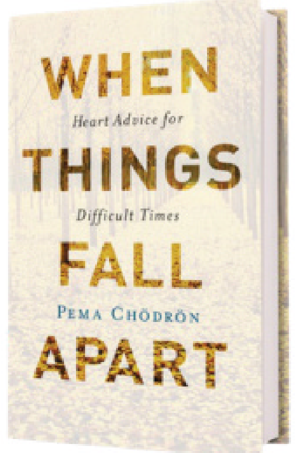
First thing…
Coffee (I tried to give it up) and NPR.

Dinnertime…
Joe and I love pasta. We both have Italian roots!

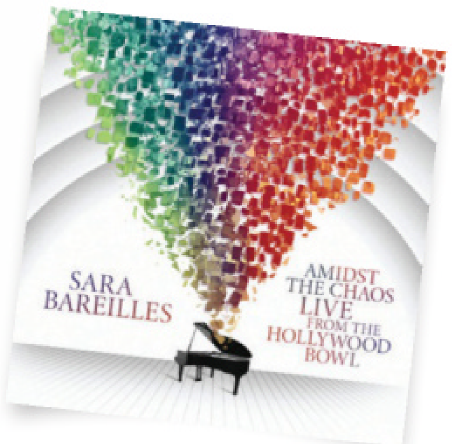
Lights out at…
Usually midnight.

Keep in Touch
Throughout the day, Bareilles says, she and her partner *Mare of Easttown* actor Tippett (in 2020) "are constantly checking in."

Low Maintenance
Bareilles likes to keep her beauty routine—which includes Charlotte Tilbury's Magic Serum—"pretty basic."



New Balance
Chödrön's classic introduced the singer to meditation: "It's a beautiful book."



Easy Listening
Recording *Amidst the Chaos: Live from the Hollywood Bowl* at the famed venue "was the pinnacle!" she says.

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2021 People BEAUTY IS BACK!

22 Ways to Be Gorgeous & Green!

ON YOUR NEXT TRIP TO THE BEAUTY AISLE, LOOK FOR THESE ECO-FRIENDLY INNOVATIONS

Hairstylist Renato Campora prepped Amanda Seyfried's hair with this shine cream for the 2021 Golden Globes on Feb. 28.

Silicone-Free Smoothing Crème

Fekkai's entire line—including this styler—is now vegan and free of parabens, sulfates, silicones and phthalates. **Fekkai Brilliant Gloss Multi-Tasker Perfecting Crème, $20;** fekkai.com

Better Brush

This popular detangling tool is now made with a plant-based plastic. **WetBrush Go Green Mini Detangler, $10;** ulta.com

Solid Shampoo

Most traditional shampoos are loaded with water and housed in plastic bottles. These bars eliminate a lot of the H2O and come in recyclable boxes. A few standouts:

1. Superzero for Kinky/Coily Hair It contains shea butter to moisturize curls. **$18;** superzero.com

2. Garnier Whole Blends Honey Treasures One of the brand's best-sellers is now available in solid form. **$8.50;** amazon.com in July

3. Foamie Kiss Me Argan Not only does it smooth frizzy hair, it's also easy to hang in your shower. **$10;** foamie.us

hair care

Recycle the aluminum tube and return the cap and the company will repurpose it

Concentrated Shampoo

All it takes is an inch-long strip of this paste mixed with a bit of water to get hair squeaky clean. **Everist Waterless Shampoo Concentrate, $24;** helloeverist.com

Plant-Based Hair Dye

It's ammonia, bleach and peroxide-free, and leaves hair healthier thanks to nourishing cocoa seed butter. **Naturally Brite Hair Color Made From Plants, $10;** target.com

Vegan Color-Depositing Conditioner

This paraben-free formula enhances your color in five minutes. **Biolage ColorBalm, $27;** ulta.com

Salons Get Eco-Conscious

Nearly 2,000 salons in the U.S. are part of the Green Circle network, which repurposes and/or properly disposes beauty waste so it doesn't end up in landfills. Go to greencirclesalons.com to find one near you.

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2021 People BEAUTY IS BACK!

Washable Cotton Pads

Apply toner and remove makeup with these organic cotton rounds, which can be machine-washed over 50 times.

Josh Rosebrook Reusable Cotton Rounds, $25 (for 10); joshrosebrook.com

Repurpose the chic cardboard container to store Q-tips or makeup brushes

Biodegradable Serum Capsules

Plant-based pods keep the vitamin C inside potent so your last application is as effective as the first.

Common Heir Vitamin C Serum Capsules, $88; commonheir.com

Jamie Chung preps her eye area with Dieux Skin patches on April 4 ahead of the 2021 Screen Actors Guild Awards.

Sustainable Peel

The ingredients in this formula are harvested in Jackson Hole, Wyo., in a way that leaves the plants intact.

Alpyn Beauty Wild Huckleberry 8-Acid Polishing Peel Mask, $56; sephora.com

Reusable Eye Patches

These under-eye masks are made with medical-grade silicone (which can be worn again and again) to eliminate single-use beauty waste.

Dieux Skin Forever Eye Masks, $25; dieuxskin.com

skin care

Refillable Skin Tint

The brand offers refills of all 14 shades of its tinted sunscreen to reduce plastic.

Milk Makeup Sunshine Skin Tint SPF 30, $42; milkmakeup.com

Organic Cleansing Balm

The luxe oil-based cleanser is made using renewable energy to help offset its carbon footprint.

Comfort Zone Sacred Nature Cleansing Balm, $38; us.comfortzoneskin.com

Use on dry skin instead of wipes to melt away makeup

Natural Face Cream

When you reach the bottom of this glass jar of moisturizer, pop out the inner container and replace it with a new one.

Hear Me Raw The Hydrator, $42; hearmeraw.com

Compostable Lip Balm Tubes

This vegan tint comes packaged in a plant-wax-coated paper tube that can degrade in soil.

Ethique Lip Balm, $8.50; ethique.com

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Will Smith brushes his teeth using Hey Humans' naturally-derived toothpaste. His wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, cofounded the brand.

Ethically Sourced Body Butter

The ultra-hydrating shea butter in this find is harvested by the Katariga Women's Shea Cooperative in Ghana, which pays workers fair wages and ensures access to medical care.
Hanahana Beauty Bamboo Coconut Body Butter, $30; hanahanabeauty.com

body care

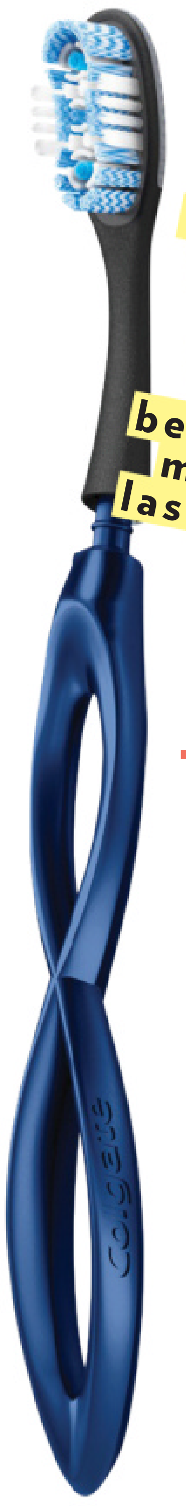
Safe Sunscreen

This family-friendly zinc oxide sunblock is formulated with mineral UV filters and is reef-safe.
Mustela Mineral Sunscreen Lotion SPF 50, $16.50; mustela.com

Plastic-Free Cleanser

Who needs a bottle? Just add water to this dehydrated single-serve sheet to bring on the suds.
Plus Body Wash, $16.50; cleanwith.plus

The packaging dissolves on your shower floor!



The handle is shaped like an infinity symbol because it's meant to last forever

Aluminum Toothbrush

Instead of tossing your toothbrush every few months, hang onto the base and just replace the head.
Colgate Keep Manual Starter Kit Toothbrush, $10; target.com

All-Natural Body Scrub

This vegan sugar scrub is made with shea, mango and cocoa butters, plus organic hemp-seed oil.
NCLA Beauty Body Scrub, $32; nclabeauty.com

Refillable Deodorant

Three of Dove's beloved aluminum-free varieties now come in a reusable stainless steel case.
Dove 0% Aluminum Refillable Deodorant, $15; target.com

How Three Retailers Are Doing Their Part

Sephora
Its Clean at Sephora program, launched in 2018, now includes more than 80 brands whose products are formulated without parabens, sulfates and more.

Nordstrom
The department store's Beautycycle initiative (in partnership with TerraCycle) allows customers to discard their empties at a Nordstrom drop-off box.

Ulta Beauty x Loop
Packaging (like this Burt's Bees bottle) is refilled and reused again and again through Ulta Beauty's partnership with Loop, a recycling program, resulting in zero waste.

Burt's Bees Gel Cleanser, $11; loopbyulta.com

By JACKIE FIELDS and KAITLYN FREY

Breyers

Unilever

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july 4th special!

quick tip!

"If you don't feel like making your own crust, just buy a ready-made graham-cracker crust from the store," suggests Lomas. Skip to step 3, and continue the recipe from there.

VALLERY LOMAS

Summer Fruit Tart with Cream Cheese Filling

The *Foodie in New York* blogger and winner of *The Great American Baking Show* says her patriotic dessert 'couldn't be easier to make. The crust is an easy-peasy press-in crust, and the filling is basically a no-bake cheesecake!'

1 cup all-purpose flour
Pinch of kosher salt
¾ cup powdered sugar, divided
½ cup unsalted butter, melted
1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, cold
¾ cup heavy whipping cream, cold
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2½ cups mixed fresh blue fruit and red fruit (such as blueberries, raspberries, halved or quartered strawberries, halved and pitted cherries, sliced red plums, pomegranate arils)
¼ cup strawberry or raspberry seedless jam

1. Combine flour, salt and ¼ cup powdered sugar in a large bowl. Add butter, and stir until combined and a soft dough forms. Using floured hands, press dough into bottom and up sides of a 9-inch tart pan, preferably with a removable bottom. Refrigerate until dough is firm, about 20 minutes.
2. Preheat oven to 350°. Remove tart pan from refrigerator, and prick bottom of crust with a fork. Line with aluminum foil or parchment paper, and fill with dried beans or pie weights. Bake until crust surface appears dry, about 20 minutes. Remove beans and foil. Return to oven, and bake at 350° until golden brown, 10 to 15 more minutes. Remove crust from oven, and cool completely on a cooling rack, about 30 minutes.
3. Place cream cheese, heavy cream, ½ cup powdered sugar and vanilla extract in a large bowl. Beat with an electric mixer on medium speed until filling is thick and smooth and very stiff peaks form, 2 to 3 minutes. (The mixture may be lumpy at first from the cold cream cheese, but it will smooth out if you continue beating.)
4. Spread cream cheese mixture evenly in cooled tart crust. Top with fruit.
5. Place jam in a microwavable bowl, and microwave on high just until jam becomes more liquid (but not hot), 10 to 20 seconds. Brush jam on top of the fruit. Refrigerate tart at least 30 minutes before serving. Tart can be refrigerated up to 2 days.
Serves: 8 **Active time:** 20 minutes
Total time: 2 hours, 10 minutes

FOOD STYLIST: MARGARET MONROE DICKEY; PROP STYLIST: AUDREY DAVIS; INSET: COURTESY VALLERY LOMAS

Photographs by JENNIFER CAUSEY

For more celebrity recipes, visit PEOPLE.COM/FOOD

july 4th special! ★★★

CLARICE LAM

Firecracker Pops

'They're the perfect balance of tart cherries and limes, creamy coconut milk and sweet blueberries,' says the pastry chef at Kimika, a Japanese-Italian fusion restaurant in N.Y.C.

6 cups fresh cherries, pitted and stems removed
¾ cup granulated sugar
4 tsp. grated lime zest plus 10 Tbsp. fresh juice (from 5 large limes), divided
16 (3-oz.) ice pop molds
¾ cup well-shaken and stirred full-fat coconut milk (from 1 [13.5-oz.] can)
¾ cup condensed milk (from 1 [14-oz.] can)
½ cup desiccated coconut
16 food-safe craft sticks
1 cup fresh blueberries
2½ cups coconut water

1. Place cherries, sugar, 2 teaspoons zest and 4 tablespoons lime juice in a medium saucepan. Heat over medium high, stirring occasionally, until cherries are soft and sugar dissolves, 6 to 8 minutes. Remove from heat. Transfer mixture to a blender. Remove center piece of lid to let steam escape. Cover opening with a kitchen towel. Process until smooth, 2 to 3 minutes. Pour puree through a fine mesh strainer into a bowl; discard solids. Cover, and chill 1 hour. Fill molds one-third of the way with cherry mixture (about 1½ tablespoons each). Freeze 2 hours.
2. Whisk coconut milk, condensed milk, desiccated coconut, 6 tablespoons lime juice and 2 teaspoons zest in a bowl. Spoon about 1½ tablespoons of the coconut mixture over frozen cherry mixture in each mold. Freeze 2 hours.
3. Insert one stick into each mold, and place 3 or 4 blueberries around stick. Add about 1½ tablespoons of coconut water to each mold. Freeze at least 4 hours or up to overnight.
Serves: 16 **Active time:** 20 minutes
Total time: 9 hours, 20 minutes

INSETS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: EVAN SUNG; SEE'S CANDIES; GEORGETOWN CUPCAKE; WILLIAM GREENBERG DESSERTS

Editors' Picks: Patriotic Treats!

These all-American foods will add sweet sparkle to your celebration

Red & Blues

For Independence Day, William Greenberg Desserts dresses up its famous Black & Whites—cakey cookies with rich vanilla frosting. $1.75-$3.75; wgbergdesserts.com

July 4th Cupcakes

Georgetown Cupcake's holiday box includes dreamy Salted Caramel and Chocolate Firework Swirl. $38 for 12; georgetown cupcake.com

Sour Gummy Stars

These soft cherry, lemon and berry-flavored candies pack a tangy, puckery punch! $8.50; sees.com

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DANA POLLACK

Red, White & Blue Angel Food Cake

'This is hands-down one of my favorite recipes,' says the author of the *Dana's Bakery* cookbook, which is filled with desserts from her South Hackensack, N.J., shop. 'It's light, airy and perfect for summer!'

- **1 cup (about 4¼ oz.) all-purpose flour**
- **¾ cup caster sugar or superfine sugar**
- **¼ cup cornstarch**
- **¼ tsp. table salt**
- **12 large egg whites (about 1½ cups)**
- **1 cup granulated sugar**
- **1 Tbsp. vanilla extract**
- **Red food coloring gel**
- **Blue food coloring gel**
- **Powdered sugar**

1. Preheat oven to 325°. Sift together flour, caster sugar, cornstarch and salt into a bowl; set aside.
2. Beat egg whites and granulated sugar with a stand mixer fitted with a whisk attachment on high speed until soft peaks form, 4 to 5 minutes. Add vanilla; beat until just combined, about 1 minute.
3. Using a rubber spatula, gradually fold sifted flour mixture into egg white mixture in about 3 additions.
4. Divide batter in thirds in different bowls (about 3½ cups each). Fold a few drops of red food coloring into batter in one bowl; fold a few drops of blue food coloring into batter in second bowl, and leave remaining batter undyed.
5. Spoon red batter evenly into an ungreased 10-inch tube pan. Spoon white (undyed) batter evenly over red batter; spoon blue batter evenly over white batter. Bake in preheated oven until a wooden pick inserted into center of cake comes out clean, 40 to 45 minutes. Remove from oven, and immediately flip cake upside down (do not remove cake from pan) onto a wire rack. Let cake cool in pan completely, about 2 hours.
6. Run a knife around edges of cake to loosen from pan, and remove cake from pan. Sprinkle cake with powdered sugar, slice and serve.

Serves: 12 **Active time:** 15 minutes
Total time: 3 hours

quick tip!
Caster sugar dissolves quickly, which helps stop the egg whites from deflating. "If you don't have superfine sugar, place granulated sugar in a blender, and blend until fine," says Pollack.

INSET: JESSE KORMAN

By ANA CALDERONE *and* SONAL DUTT

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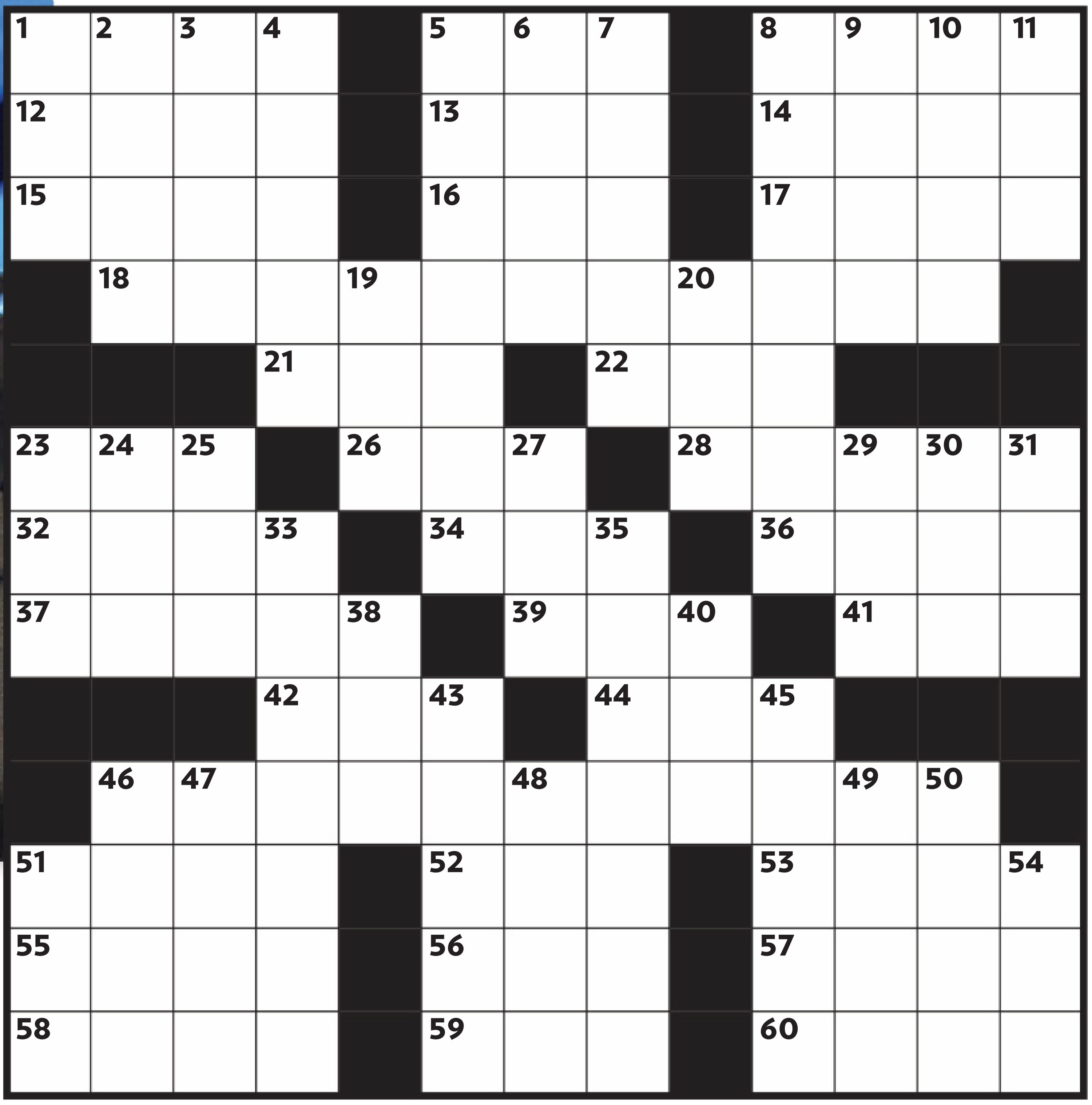

across

1 18 Across was a TV talk show ___ from 1989 to 1994 and in 2013-14
5 ___-relief (sculpture type)
8 Pay attention to
12 Chip in chips
13 In a ___ (routinized)
14 David Chang bestseller ___ *Peach* (2 wds.)
15 On a ___ (with a sudden burst of energy)
16 Old name for Tokyo
17 Electromagnetic wave (hyph.)
18 *Coming 2 America* actor (2 wds.)
21 ___ table beside a couch
22 Babe or Petunia
23 Pub quaff
26 *Avenue 5* star Josh
28 Becomes dejected
32 Reverse photo images
34 A nickname for actor Cage
36 18 Across's *Coming 2 America* castmate Trevor
37 18 Across was a regular on *Thicke of the* ___
39 *Wonder Woman* portrayer Gadot
41 "Dr." of rap
42 Joan of ___
44 Ballet segment ___ de deux
46 Friend and *Coming 2 America* costar of 18 Across
51 *The Lion King* uncle
52 Zero
53 Brie Larson's Oscar film
55 State 18 Across hails from
56 Golf-ball adjunct
57 Celtic New Age singer
58 *And Then There Were* ___
59 Supersonic transport, for short
60 Austrian painter Schiele

down

1 Tam or fez
2 Draft status (wd. and ltr.)
3 18 Across hosted ___ *Search* (2003-04)
4 Succinct
5 *Doom Patrol* actor Fraser
6 German automaker
7 Porch or entrance stairway
8 Six-sided figure
9 James ___ Jones (*Coming 2 America* castmate of 18 Across)
10 And others, for short
11 Daniel ___-Lewis
19 Chang's conjoined twin
20 Kevin Costner's *Let* ___ *Go*
23 Conservative pundit Coulter
24 Blossom wreath
25 Darning ___ (sewing aid)
27 *The* ___ stars Carey Mulligan
29 Like two peas in a ___
30 Van Gogh's partially lost organ
31 Harry Styles hit
33 Eggs of a herring-like fish (2 wds.)
35 Last name of Shakespeare's Juliet
38 Prefix with angle
40 Choreographer Lubovitch
43 Two ___ worth
45 Binge; carousal
46 Reverberate
47 Dashiell Hammett's *The* ___ *Curse*
48 Architect ___ van der Rohe
49 ___ Kong (region)
50 Cellist ___ Ma (2 wds.)
51 *Prodigal* ___ with Michael Sheen
54 Jason Statham's *Wrath of* ___

Answers to last week's Puzzler

FOX/GETTY IMAGES

By JOHN GREENMAN

See if you can find the differences in these two pictures

ANDREW LIPOVSKY/NBC(2)

To celebrate the return of live audiences on Broadway, *Tonight Show* host **Jimmy Fallon** invited *Hamilton*'s **Lin-Manuel Miranda** (fourth from left) and other stars—like (from left) **Laura Benati** and **Christopher Jackson; Kristin Chenoweth** (right of Fallon) as well as **Phylicia Rashad** and **Jimmy Smits** (far right)—to perform a musical tribute titled "Broadway's Back!" on June 8. Theaters plan to fully reopen Sept. 14.

10 changes to keep score!

1. The tie worn by the dancer on the elevated main set, far left, is now green. **2.** The microphone held by Benati, far left on main stage, is gone. **3.** The white logo on the blue T-shirt worn by Jackson, second from left, is yellow. **4.** The dancer on the elevated main set with a red neck scarf is missing a suspender strap. **5.** The sticker onstage in front of Fallon is moved left. **6.** Fallon's shoes are blue. **7.** The shirtsleeve of Rashad, second from right, is extended. **8.** A stage light, top right, is out. **9.** The brick wall, left, is wider. **10.** Smits, far right, no longer has a pocket square.

Kevin Bacon

THE ACTOR, 62, STARS IN SHOWTIME'S BOSTON-SET CRIME DRAMA *CITY ON A HILL*

Last thing I discovered about myself
I like making snowmen even if I'm alone. We had this great, beautiful snow on our farm here in Connecticut [last winter], and it was perfect packing temperature. I was like, "Well, I think I've got to make some snowmen." I also learned that I'm not too old to do it.

Last time I was starstruck
I met Paul McCartney in an airport. Listen, meeting a Beatle or a Stone, that's a pretty big deal for a guy like me who loves music. In the beginning I'm definitely telling myself, "Please don't say something stupid." But he was very fun and easy to talk to.

Last time I was recognized
Masks really cut down on the recognition factor, but the other week someone was behind me in line and said, "I heard your voice." I get a lot of people asking me if they're now one degree of separation. That comes up a lot.

Last time I cried
I don't cry easily, but my daughter [Sosie Bacon] is on the show *Mare of Easttown* on HBO. She had a scene where she drops her son off with his grandmother because she just can't handle being with him, and her performance made me cry. It was very emotional.

Last time I danced
Probably last night in the kitchen. Kyra [Sedgwick, his wife] and I usually put some music on when we're cooking dinner. I really do like to dance; my only fear of the dance floor is that they're going to play "Footloose." I'd rather dance *with* people than *for* people—let's put it that way.

Reported by JULIE JORDAN

RAMONA ROSALES/AUGUST

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